

The quest for modern leadership

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British literary world pays tribute as Iris Murdoch dies



Murdoch won Booker

BY DALYA ALBERGE AND CLAUDIA JOSEPH

TRIBUTES poured in last night for Iris Murdoch, who died yesterday afternoon after a long struggle against Alzheimer's disease. After entering a nursing home a fortnight ago, she had lost the will to eat and drink. Her husband, John Bayley, 73, was at her side when she died.

Dame Iris, 79, will be remembered as a novelist of ideas, a philosopher who wrote for the people beyond the senior common room. She won the Booker Prize for *The Sea, The Sea* and was put forward for a Nobel Prize for Literature. A prolific writer, she published 27 novels.

She married John Bayley, the literary critic, when 37. They met when he was a tutor at St Antony's College, Oxford, and she a don at nearby St Anne's. He fell in love at first sight as she bicycled "slowly and laboriously" past his window.

Mr Bayley said: "I was so happy that she was happy in a wonderful home, a nursing home. They were extremely good to her. But she'd only been there a fortnight. She had been growing weaker and weaker. But it was such a painless death and I was with her. It was expected, but not as soon as this."

Some of Britain's leading writers were among those offering tributes to Iris Murdoch, the woman and the novelist. Josephine Hart, the novelist and a close friend since 1987, said: "As a person, Iris was the most graceful human being I've met in my life. She had the deepest respect for every other individual person. You could see it with everyone, from small children who she'd treat so calmly, as if listening to a philosopher."

She added: "One of the reasons that the books will survive and remain so important is that she led us down the labyrinth of our own mind. Of course, she was unbelievably clever and witty. Her writing had a great moral power. You learnt in reading her books, so much about yourself. She made you go inside yourself."

Another friend, John Grigg, the historian, said: "Iris is one of those rare authors who have created a fictional world so vivid and strange that an adjective based on her name has entered the language. But she was even more rare in being a person who combined brilliant intellect and imagination with a marvellously warm and in many ways simple heart."

The novelist Margaret Drabble called Murdoch a "completely magical writer" who had an "extraordinary" narrative powers that "gave me such delight and pleasure". Malcolm Bradbury, who last saw her a year ago, said: "I have known her for a long time and she was brilliant. She was one of the greatest British writers of the second half of the 20th century. It's a real loss to English literature made that much sadder by her Alzheimer's."

Alain de Botton said that for the younger generation, Murdoch's books "evoke a time for people who weren't there" and will remain classics into the next century.

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Bill Clinton, with former Presidents Carter, Ford and Bush, walks alongside President Chirac of France. Tony Blair is among other mourners at the top left

Homage to Hussein

Funeral brings enemies together

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

IN DEATH as in life, King Hussein of Jordan yesterday acted as a bridge-builder as his funeral brought together sworn enemies who united in paying homage to one of the great peacemakers of the 20th century.

The outcome of the open and secret exchanges between about 50 heads of state and government will only become clear in the coming weeks and months. But all present were agreed that as a gathering of world leaders, the funeral was unique, overshadowing the final rites for Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister assassinated in 1995, or those in 1981 for the Egyptian leader,

Anwar Sadat, who suffered the same fate because of his backing for peace between Jews and Arabs.

For the first time in the 50-year history of the Jewish state, an Israeli delegation attended the same ceremony as President Assad of Syria, a last-minute unannounced guest. Also present were delegations from Iraq and Libya, countries which remain technically at war with Israel, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, whose 1993 peace deal with Israel is close to collapse.

Although Benjamin Netanyahu, the hardline Israeli Prime Minister, did not come face-to-face with the wily Syrian leader, he said later: "The fact that we all came here to signal our commitment to real peace convinced me that I must try to achieve a new beginning, to broaden the efforts

for peace and make it real." Mr Netanyahu said that as well as speaking to many Jordanians, he had met representatives of unnamed Arab states. He, like other leaders who walked behind the coffin under leaden skies, said he saw Mr Assad's surprise visit — in the knowledge that Israel would be sending a large delegation of 23 — as a signal of his renewed interest in peace.

After speaking at length to King Abdullah II, Jordan's courteous and ramrod-backed new monarch, the Israeli Prime Minister said: "I see Abdullah as a very open and warm-hearted person, someone who strongly resembles his father, and I have no doubt he will follow in his father's footsteps."

The two are due to meet for substantive talks soon. No less remarkable than the

unprecedented Israeli-Arab presence was the mingling of President Clinton and three former US Presidents, Jimmy Carter, George Bush and Gerald Ford, in a gathering which included a Vice-President of Iraq, the son of Libya's maverick leader, Colonel Gaddafi, and the leader of Sudan — all countries attacked by US planes or missiles in recent years.

Notable by her absence was Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, who instead sent her number three, Thomas Pickering. US officials said Ms Albright had decided against attending because of the strict Islamic custom governing the conduct of the funeral, which kept men and women separate and prevented all but a few women, permitted for obscure protocol reasons, from paying their respects be-

side the men at the late King's flag-draped coffin.

During the five-hour ceremony, the coffin had been driven through the rain-lashed streets of Amman, lined with weeping Jordanians, some beating their faces and chests in grief.

Queen Noor, the late King's elegant fourth wife, and other female members of the Royal Family, including his six daughters from four marriages, stayed at his private residence, Bab al-Salam (Gate of Peace), in keeping with Islamic tradition. Jordanians who saw the Queen said she looked distraught.

Wearing traditional white headscarves of mourning, the women huddled together on the steps to bid farewell as the motorcade carrying the coffin — shadowed by three helicopters — raced through the

streets on a 12-mile journey to the King's final resting place. That was the Hashemite burial site close to the hilltop palace of Raghadan which overlooks Amman. The sprawling capital has grown out of all recognition since Hussein ascended the throne in 1952.

Because of security concerns that Iraqi agents might try to disrupt proceedings because of the presence of Mr Clinton and Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister — the twin architects of December's bombing campaign against Baghdad — the vehicles sped through the streets. There were chaotic scenes as crowds lining the route broke the ineffective security cordons to chase the procession in an expression of grief.

The funeral was itself a mirror of some of the deep social divisions that King Abdullah will have to repair. The poor

Family united, page 2
Leading article, page 17

Till shuts on British rebate

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S special cash-back deal from the Brussels budget came under fire from 14 other member states yesterday as ministers failed to agree on spending reforms. It set the scene for a crisis summit in Berlin next month.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, won no converts when he pressed the Government's case for retaining the annual

£2 billion rebate at a session of finance ministers that was supposed to set guidelines for reorganising farm spending.

However, Britain's lonely stand on its 14-year-old rebate was eclipsed by the disarray among all EU governments on all the key elements of the six-year spending package that is due to be settled by April.

"We are heading for the standard EU crisis," said a French diplomat after his team had clashed with the Ger-

mans over plans for cutting farm spending, which consumes half the EU's annual £65 billion budget. Tony Blair and the other leaders are supposed to tie up the budget deal in Berlin on March 25.

The only common cause among bickering ministers was opposition to the British rebate. "It is inconceivable that the British rebate can go on operating in the old way," said Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French minister.

Output falls

Manufacturing output fell in December, with factory gate prices falls recorded for the first time. Page 25

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هنا من الفصل

KING HUSSEIN'S FUNERAL: GRAVESIDE RECONCILIATION

Embrace by Assad signals thaw in relations

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN AMMAN

SYRIA

SYRIA'S President Assad yesterday made a rare foray abroad to pay his last respects to a man regarded as his old enemy.

Although the "Fox of Damascus" appeared to go out of his way to avoid being close to any of the Israelis scattered through the scrimmage that took place outside Amman's elegant Raghadan Palace, his mere presence and the body language of his meeting with Jordan's new leader, King Abdullah II, signalled a thaw in Syrian-Jordanian relations.

After the burial of the late monarch, Mr Assad was symbolically the first in line of all the foreign dignitaries to offer his condolences to King Abdullah. Their embrace was widely remarked upon, as was Mr Assad's visible emotion when he halted earlier before the flag-draped coffin of the late King and appeared to say a prayer.

"There was a strong hint here, and with other meetings at the funeral, that a number of Arab countries at loggerheads with tiny Jordan are now prepared to turn over a new leaf with its new leadership," a senior Arab diplomat said. "The strong delegation from Kuwait's ruling al-Sabah family showed us all that the rift stretching back to the [1991] Gulf crisis is over."

Relations between Syria and Jordan were strained for years by Mr Assad's suspicion that King Hussein maintained secret ties with Israel, while the King was wary of Syria's territorial ambitions and

mindful that during the 1970 Black September Palestinian uprising, Syrian tanks had only been deterred by Israeli troop manoeuvres from crossing into Jordan.

When Jordan decided to go it alone without Syria and signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, President Assad fumed, charging that Jordan had committed a "grave offence" against united Arab efforts to reach a comprehensive peace.

King Hussein and President Assad never agreed on anything because the monarch always suspected that the Syrian leader and former Air Force Commander wanted to rule over a "greater Syria", comprising of Syria proper, Lebanon, Palestine and Transjordan. For his part, Mr Assad never forgave the late Jordanian monarch for making a secret visit to Tel Aviv in 1973 to warn Israeli leaders of the imminent Syrian-Egyptian military offensive.

But the Syrian leader did telephone the ailing King on January 19 to inquire about his health. He flew in for yesterday's funeral without notice after postponing until tomorrow a nationwide referendum that had been scheduled for yesterday to reconfirm his position as President.

There was diplomatic speculation that the graveside reconciliation could have two outcomes. "Either it could signal that Assad wants Jordan's new leader to cool his ties with Israel as a price of renewed



President Assad of Syria, right, arrives yesterday at the Raghadan Palace in Amman with Farouk al-Sharaa, Syria's Foreign Minister

friendship with Damascus, or Abdullah could act as a useful go-between in a bid to restart Israel-Syria peace talks if Labour wins Israel's May general election," one envoy said.

In another diplomatic surprise during the marathon ceremony, the head of a Damascus-based radical Palestinian group that rejected peace with Israel as negotiated by the

peace who fought for many years to advance peace in the Middle East. We recognise this and, God willing, peace will come to our region," Mr Weizman said in response that he hoped that Syria and Lebanon, which are still technically at war with Israel, would join the peace process. Israel radio later reported that Ariel Sharon, the Foreign

Minister, had reprimanded Mr Weizman for the exchange. The DFLP was responsible for a number of terrorist attacks inside Israel including the deaths of 24 schoolchildren and a soldier in the northern town of Maalot in 1974.

Since rejecting the peace deal, Mr Hawatmeh, 62, who has links with another renegade Palestinian leader, Georges Habash, has called for a two-state solution, but objects to Yasser Arafat's 1993 deal, claiming that it falls short of the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

The sheer weight of the US delegation led by President Clinton, and including three former Presidents and the head of the World Bank, was seen as evidence that the West plans to back up its moral support for the new Jordanian ruler with much needed aid for his battered economy. As a start, Mr Clinton has already pledged to rush through a new \$300 million (£187.5 million) aid package.

Discreet diplomacy took place in Amman's heavily guarded luxury hotels and chancelleries before and after the funeral.

From another potential conflict zone, Turkey's President Demirel was in attendance along with his Cypriot counterpart, President Clerides, 30 per cent of whose country is occupied by Turkish troops.

'A number of Arab countries are prepared to turn over a new leaf'

PLO, shook hands with President Weizman of Israel and hailed him as a man of peace.

Nayef Hawatmeh, the veteran general secretary of the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, approached Mr Weizman at the palace while waiting for the funeral to begin. According to the President's spokesman, he told him: "You are a man of

peace who fought for many years to advance peace in the Middle East. We recognise this and, God willing, peace will come to our region," Mr Weizman said in response that he hoped that Syria and Lebanon, which are still technically at war with Israel, would join the peace process. Israel radio later reported that Ariel Sharon, the Foreign

Minister, had reprimanded Mr Weizman for the exchange. The DFLP was responsible for a number of terrorist attacks inside Israel including the deaths of 24 schoolchildren and a soldier in the northern town of Maalot in 1974. Since rejecting the peace deal, Mr Hawatmeh, 62, who has links with another renegade Palestinian leader,



President Yeltsin arrives for the funeral before cutting short his visit, which was made against medical advice

Hague slips back to third place

BY MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE presence of three former American Presidents at King Hussein's funeral yesterday left many wondering why no former British Prime Ministers were among the mourners.

But this was not the only apparent breach of protocol. Onlookers were surprised to see William Hague reduced to following Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, when the British party attended King Hussein's coffin. Normally, the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition walks alongside or behind the Prime Minister at official events, with the leader of the smaller party trailing behind.

Downing Street officials were adamant this was not a snub to Mr Hague. "We had no involvement in the arrangements," they said. A spokesman for Mr Hague was keen to play down the Tory leader's apparent relegation in status. "Mr Ashdown always tries to keep as close to Mr Blair as he can," he said.

It was harder to say why Lord Callaghan, Sir Edward Heath, Baroness Thatcher or John Major were absent from the event, which attracted

BRITAIN

more than 30 national leaders and royalty from 14 countries. All the former British leaders had been friendly with the former monarch during his 47-year reign. Lady Thatcher and John Major had relied heavily on his support during many crises in the Middle East, including the Gulf War.

Downing Street sources said that, as far as they were aware, one of the former Prime Ministers asked if they could attend the funeral. Lady Thatcher will pay her respects to the King tomorrow morning by signing a book of condolence at the Jordanian Embassy in London.

This was probably a wise move. In accordance with Islamic custom she, along with Queen Noor, Hillary Clinton and other female dignitaries would have been allowed a limited role in the ceremony.

Sir Edward Heath's Office, when told of Lady Thatcher's visit to the embassy, said he would do the same thing the next time he was in London. Mr Major and Lord Callaghan, the former Labour Prime Minister, are expected to follow suit.

Downing Street would not disclose how many were among Mr Blair's party.

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Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, pays his respects to King Abdullah II

Time running out for elder statesmen on Arab stage

THE funeral of King Hussein provided a graphic reminder of the mortality of most of the remaining Arab heads of state — and signalled that the Arab world is poised for a sweeping change of guard. "It is no secret that most rulers of the 20 Arab nations are elder statesmen who have ruled for a long period of time, and if an Arab summit is held five years from now most of them will not be there," noted Fahed al-Fanek, Jordan's leading columnist.

The question is whether the younger generation poised to take over will attempt to transform the fundamentals of how the Arab world is governed, or simply prove to be new faces in control of unchanged, repressive political machines.

Unlike Jordan, where the transfer of power from the royal father, 63, to his eldest, 37-year-old son passed remarkably smoothly, in many Arab League countries the path of succession remains fraught with danger. "The leaders of the Middle East are ageing," Taher Masri, the former Jordanian Prime Minister, told the Jordan Times. "Change could come from within, with a new spirit to liberalise the regimes, bringing more democracy and

The Jordan monarch's death has focused attention on other leaders' health, writes Christopher Walker

relying more on state institutions than their predecessors." In Saudi Arabia, over recent years threatened from within by a growing number of Islamic extremists, the transition has begun. King Fahd, 76, is seriously ill, hardly able to walk, and yesterday sent his half-brother and designated heir, Crown Prince Abdullah, to represent him.

By contrast, in two other key Arab states, Egypt and neighbouring Libya, the succession remains uncertain. The Libyan dictator Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, 56, in power since 1969 coup, is also reported by intelligence sources to be in indifferent health. Significantly, he dispatched his eldest son to Amman last month to congratulate Abdullah when King Hussein named him heir apparent on January 25, signalling a possible attempt to keep the leadership in the family. In Egypt,

although President Mubarak's smooth 1981 takeover from the assassinated Anwar Sadat was helped because he was Vice-President, he has never named a deputy — fearing a possible rival centre of power. In Syria and the recently formed Palestinian Authority, the future also remains open to serious doubt with the chances of instability high. Both Syria's President Assad and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, will turn 70 this year, and each has recently demonstrated unmistakable signs of deteriorating health.

Although President Assad does have an official number two, Abdul-Halim Khaddam, his hardline Vice-President, he has spent much time grooming his second son, Bashar, an ophthalmologist said to lack his father's mettle and legendary cunning, to succeed him.

The President had to switch his plans after his favourite eldest son, Bassel, was killed in a high-speed car crash.

Mr Arafat, the former guerrilla leader who survived many assassination attempts, is now visibly suffering from a perpetually trembling lower lip, thought to mark the onset of Parkinson's disease, and has admitted he may not live another two years. He, too, has never designated a successor. If he were to die soon, there could be a civil war between different factions of the Palestinian security forces.

Another neighbour of Jordan where any transfer of power could have wide-ranging regional implications is Iraq. If American efforts to overthrow President Saddam Hussein, in power since 1979, succeeded, near-anarchy could follow, with the Kurdish north and Shia Muslim south splitting away from the mainly Sunni Muslim centre that includes Baghdad.

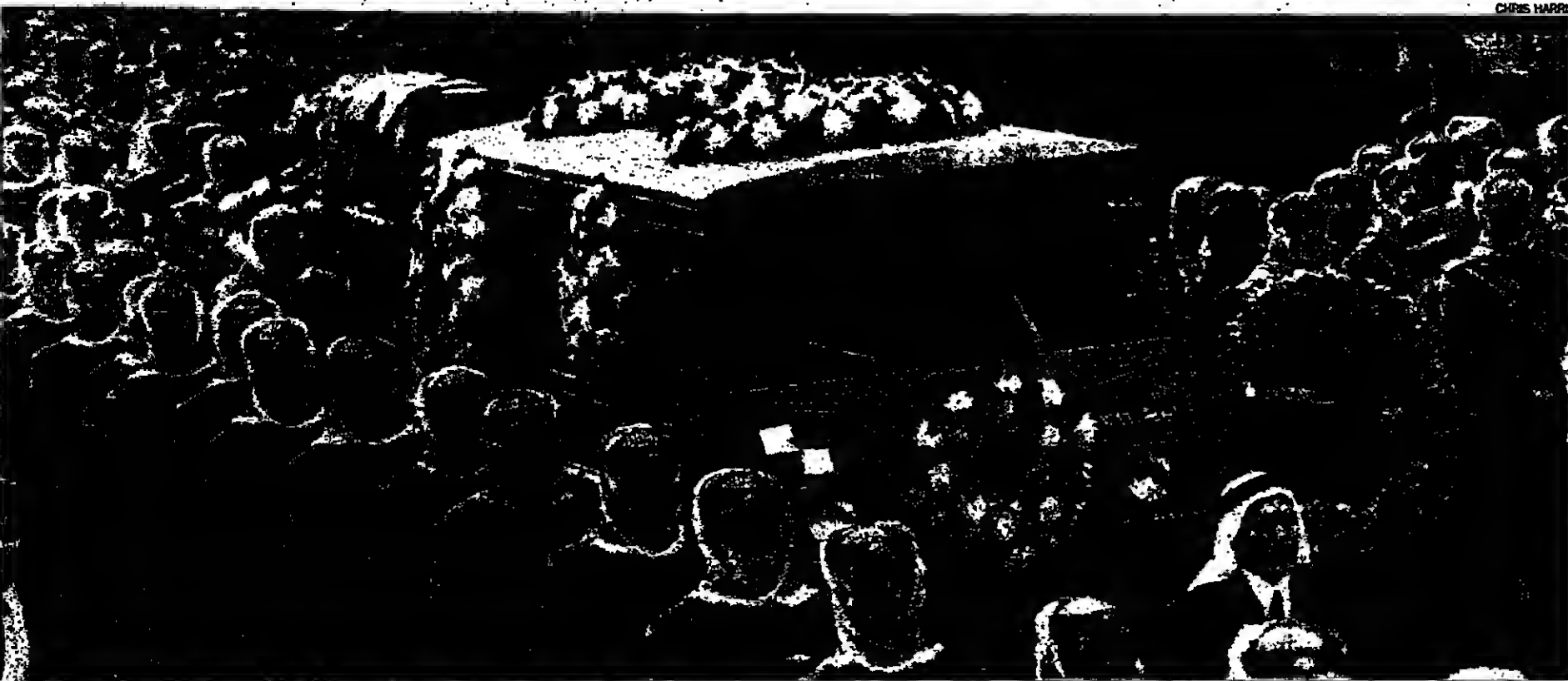
In the emirates of the Gulf, many leaders are ageing, too, having ruled since their states gained independence. From Britain, King Abdullah II of Jordan has made a point of cultivating close ties with the next generation there.

MATTHEW PARRIS IS ON PAGE 4

KING HUSSEIN'S FUNERAL: ROYAL HOUSE UNITES



King Abdullah, right, comforts his uncle, Prince Muhammad, at the Raghadan Palace. Deposed Crown Prince Hassan, left, is at the forefront of the mourners. Queen Noor, second from left, with Princesses Iman, Raya and Haya show their grief



The funeral procession embarks on the final journey from the Raghadan Palace to the Royal Cemetery, where King Hussein was laid to rest beside his father and grandfather

Family closes ranks in grief

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER
AND ROSS DUNN

JORDAN'S Royal Family yesterday staged a dignified but effective show of unity in grief to mark King Hussein's funeral and to mask the internal feuds over power which marred the last months of his life.

The new King, Abdullah II, stood close to — and often consulted — the late King's youngest brother, Prince Hassan, who was deposed two weeks ago after being the designated heir for 34 years. Senior officials said he would be offered an important advisory post in the new administration.

Standing near them, also showing signs of deep sadness, was Prince Muhammad, Hussein's little-known second brother, who was passed over as Crown Prince in 1965 because of fears of hereditary mental instability. These fears have been discounted.

Also present as Hussein's five sons stood close to each other — and at one point helped to carry the flag-draped coffin — was the newly appointed heir apparent, Hamzah, Hussein's eldest son by his fourth wife, the American-born Queen Noor. She will



The late King's horse, his master's boots reversed in the stirrups

retain a position of considerable influence in her adopted country.

The surprise appointment of Crown Prince Hamzah, 18, who is at Sandhurst, was seen by many Jordanians as another attempt to heal family divisions. However, some opposition members saw it as evidence that the US may indirectly increase its influence over Jordanian affairs because they assume Queen Noor will pursue Washington's line.

United yesterday in mourning, the

Hashemite family is now expected to rally round King Abdullah, 37, in the difficult early months of his rule, when foreign powers or internal subversives, including Muslim extremists, could try to destabilise Jordan.

Taking his place along a main boulevard to watch the funeral procession yesterday, Ghadi Naouri, a businessman, managed a difficult balancing act. With one arm, he held up a homemade poster proclaiming "Our King of Peace, May He Rest In

Peace". With the other he held aloft his three-year-old daughter, Indira, so that she could see over the heads of other bystanders. "I want her to remember this day," said Mr Naouri.

He said that the Israeli delegation, including Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, was welcome in Jordan because King Hussein had wanted to normalise relations between the two former enemies.

In 1994, Jordan signed a treaty with Israel, becoming only the sec-

THE FAITHFUL STALLION

AMONG many moving moments in a day of grief unlike any seen before in the Hashemite Kingdom, even hardened television commentators shed a tear at the sight of the King's beloved white Arab stallion Amir — his master's black boots reversed in the stirrups — following the coffin dejectedly towards the sounding of the Last Post and the firing of a 15-gun salute.

As befits tradition in this desert kingdom, the horse — often seen with military trappings with the uniformed King in the saddle — will never be ridden again now that his royal rider is dead.

ond Arab nation after Egypt to make peace with the Jewish state. "I think this King was trying to do this from the beginning," Mr Naouri said. "This is our King's hope, our King's wish, we don't mind [that the Israelis are present]."

The peace with Israel was one of the difficult realities that Jordanians had to accept, said Khairi al-Qadi, 32, a sales manager.

"Frankly speaking, no one likes the Jewish people because of what they have done to Arabs," he said. "But in these circumstances we have to forget the politics. There is no problem. Nobody would like to see trouble."

"We came here to express our feelings. Everyone is sad, but we have to forget sadness and to support Abdullah," he said.

"King Abdullah will be compared with his father," he added. "King Hussein used to feed him with his thoughts."

Hamad Diad, 17, thought it should be obvious when asked why he was there. "Because I want to see the Jordanian people cry and cry for King Hussein," he said, as the tears began to well up in his own eyes.

Tears, prayers and unspoken fears at grave

Continued from page 1

and anguished lined up for hours in icy rain to catch a last glance of their leader while the privileged stayed in the comfort of their homes to watch on TV. Many Arab nations, with the notable exception of Iraq, also showed the nearly five-hour spectacle live.

Unlike Mr Rabin's funeral, which had seen many of the same VIP guests and at which Hussein gave a deeply moving tribute to a man he had come to regard as a friend, there were no public eulogies or speeches of any kind — just tears, prayers and unspoken fears over how the loss of such a champion of peace could affect a strategic region where war remains a constant risk.

Covered only in a white shroud, the 63-year-old Hussein was buried close to his father Talal, whose short reign was ended when he was declared to be schizophrenic and put into care. After flagstones were placed over the grave, pointing east towards Mecca — Hussein was a direct descendant of the prophet Muhammad — Beduin guards in the red and white chequered keffiyahs ubiquitous among the thousands of local dignitaries fired automatic weapons over the grave.

In a day as heavy with symbolism as any could remember, the most memorable was that of President Yeltsin, the ailing Russian leader — evidently numbed by painkillers and other drugs — who defied his Kremlin doctors' advice and made a brief appearance before leaving early, virtually pushed into his car by two burly guards, and returning to Moscow where speculation about his own health after a recent bleeding ulcer was immediately renewed.

"I cannot imagine him risking his health like that for any other leader in the world," said a Jordanian official. "But now we must pray he will not

suffer the same fate as our King, whose death was speeded because he left his sickbed before being cured [of cancer] to be with us."

Apart from Mr Blair, the British delegation included the Prince of Wales, the Conservative leader, William Hague, and the outgoing Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown.

Mr Blair praised King Abdullah as "a man of enormous ability and drive", and said like most other observers present that he believed Jordan would continue to support the Middle East peace process.

"There is an overwhelming feeling in this region that unless we make this process work, the alternative is too dreadful to contemplate," the Prime Minister added. "I do believe that the commitment of the world exists to make sure that the process works and the position of Jordan, I am sure, will remain a position of full enthusiasm for the process."

London: Jordanians from around Britain gathered at the Embassy in South Kensington yesterday to watch the state funeral.

Fouad Ayoub, the Jordanian Ambassador to Britain, declared his private study open to his fellow countrymen and around 25 people huddled in front of the television.

The mourners, including students and businessmen, had travelled from as far as Cardiff and Bristol to pay their respects. Several choked back tears as the late King reached his final resting place.

The Jordanian flag flew at half-mast outside the embassy. Since the announcement of the King's death, staff have taken more than 300 phone calls, mainly from Britons, expressing their condolences. A steady stream of visitors dropped by to deliver flowers.

Leading article, page 17

WINTER GERMS ARE BACK

Charity to run first privatised school

Parents back pioneering deal as firms hope for a boom, report
John O'Leary and Hannah Betts

THE commercial arm of a specialist school in the West Midlands is poised to take over the management of a failing comprehensive 130 miles away in Surrey.

County councillors yesterday named 3E's Enterprises Ltd, linked to the Kingshurst City Technology College, in Solihull, as the preferred bidder for a contract to run Kings' Manor School in Guildford. It will be the first state school to be handed over to a private company, although in this case the company is a charitable foundation that ploughs back profits into its schools.

The entrepreneurs who make up the thriving new education market see the contract as merely the first of a series of business opportunities. The profits of the 18 listed education companies now outpace the FTSE All-Share Index.

A new round of education action zones, running scores of

schools in areas of poor performance, and multimillion-pound contracts to take over local education authority services are on the horizon. Many expect others to follow Surrey in putting a school's management out to tender.

3E's Enterprises beat competition from two other companies, Nord Anglia Education plc and the Centre for British Teachers. Surrey officials are to hold two weeks of talks with the Kingshurst governors before forwarding its plans to David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary. Government sources foresaw no problems yesterday.

Kings' Manor, which was Surrey's bottom state school in last year's GCSE league table, had been considered for closure before the Conservative-controlled council opted for private consultancy. Andrew Povey, education chairman, described the plan as a "revolutionary approach". The provisional title for the new school is The Guildford College of the Arts and Technology.

It will be relaunched in autumn 2000, with a new curriculum emphasising vocational qualifications. Stanley Goodchild, managing director of 3E's Enterprises, said: "Any profit or bonus will be shared equally between Kings' Manor and Kingshurst."

Parents said they had come to believe Kingshurst could do what the authority could not — boost falling enrolments and



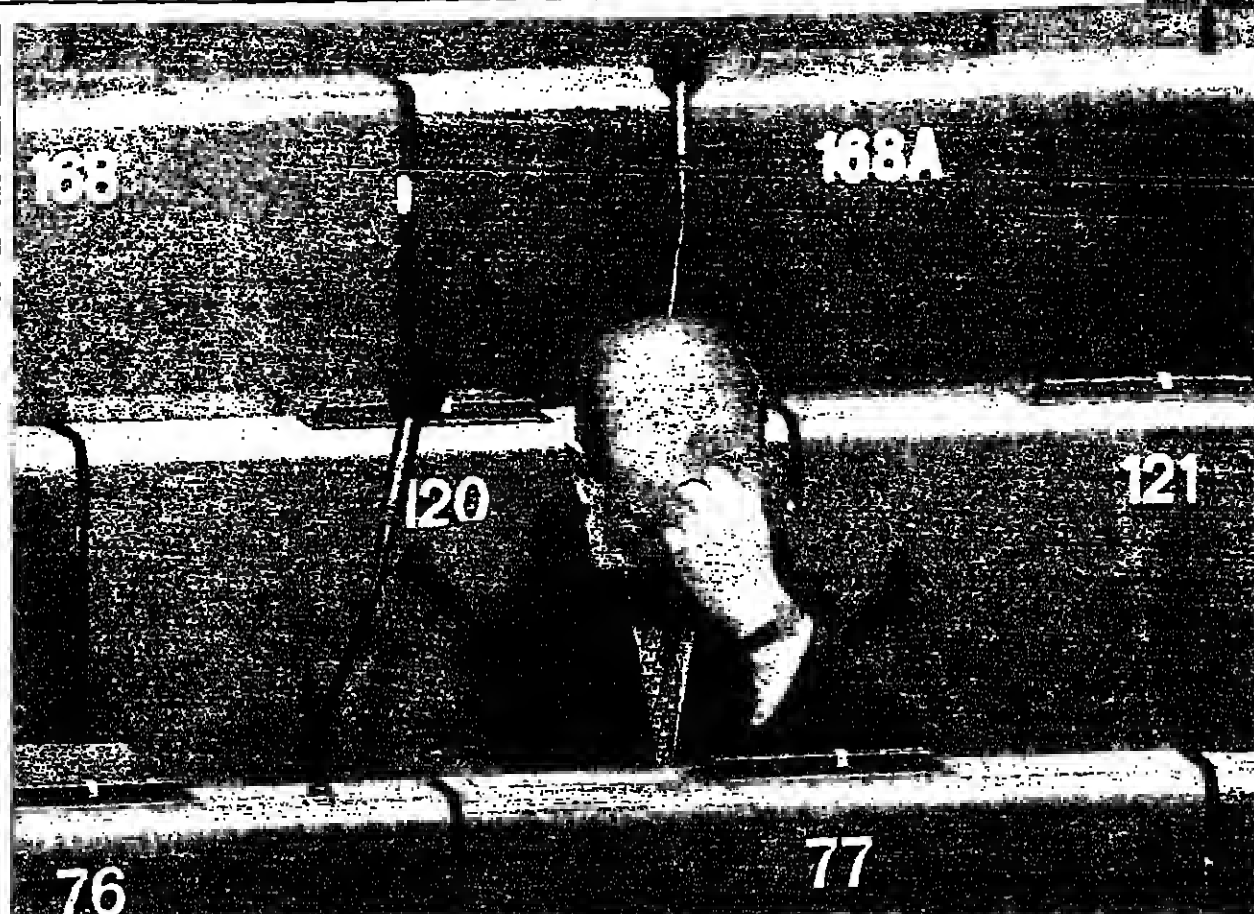
Ben Cartwright: views changed on takeover

academic achievement. Ben Cartwright, chairman of the Kings' Manor Community Action group, said: "We campaigned against this until we met Kingshurst. Now we're convinced that, if anyone can turn the school around, they can."

Surrounded by an affluent greenbelt and four successful schools, the Kings' Manor community carries the tag of "socially deprived". Built to house about 900 students, the enrolments have fallen to about 400. Kingshurst was Britain's first City Technology College when it opened 11 years ago. The rate for 10-year-olds staying on at school in the area was 17 per cent. It is now 97 per cent, and 40 per cent go on to university.

"What we can offer Kings' Manor are the techniques of regeneration," Mr Goodchild said. "Three things are vital — that the school must be owned by the local community, that pupils feel proud to attend the school, and that the school should have the support of the wider community."

Leading article, page 17



Tom Spencer in the chamber yesterday after asking his colleagues for forgiveness. He will stand down in June



Comfort from a fellow MEP after his speech

Drug Tory says sorry to MEPs

THE Tory Euro MP found with drugs and gay pornography in his luggage apologised to the European Parliament yesterday. Tom Spencer said that he had shown "extraordinary foolishness" to carry the cannabis and magazines found by customs officials at Heathrow airport last month.

To apologise from the chamber, Mr Spencer said: "I would like to make it clear to those who would use my stupidity to attack Europe and its Parliament that the fault is mine and mine alone."

The married father of three also said that his acts were "rooted in love". His wife, Liz, who has said that she knew

her husband was homosexual from the start of their marriage, accompanied him to Strasbourg.

On January 20 customs officers impounded Mr Spencer's luggage after finding two cannabis joints and the pornography. He later telephoned them to say they had missed a small quantity of cocaine.

Mr Spencer, 50, later announced that he would stand down as a candidate for Surrey in the European elections in June. He had been told that William Hague's new ethics and integrity committee would almost certainly find against him. (AFP)

Rivals in the education business

NORD ANGLIA

KEVIN MCNEANY, chairman and founder, saw shares double to £36 million on the back of reports of government support for privately run education action zones. Nord Anglia runs careers services and Ofsted inspection teams in the state sector and is the market leader in private English language tuition. Other private sector interests include 15 independent schools. He expects to see 200 schools managed by the private sector within five years.

EDISON PROJECT

BENNO SCHMIDT, the former President of Yale University, is the public face of America's best-known education management company. He has made a number of visits to Britain to try to convince ministers and local authorities that the Edison Project has a formula that will work on both sides of the Atlantic. The withdrawal of Edison's bid was disappointing to those who saw it as the forerunner of a radical management alternative.

CFBT

NEIL MCINTOSH, managing director of the non-profit-making trust CFBT, has made trenchant criticisms of local education authorities. A former head of the charity Shelter and Labour councillor, Mr McIntosh, 54, is now a Liberal Democrat. He is seen as a shrewd political operator who has made his company one of the main players on the education scene. He sees organisations such as his as "the Third Way".

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£250,000+	4.75	4.65	4.23	4.15	3.32
£100,000-£249,999	4.70	4.60	4.18	4.10	3.28
£25,000-£99,999	4.44	4.35	3.92	3.85	3.08
£10,000-£24,999	3.92	3.85	3.40	3.35	2.68
£1-£9,999	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.40

Premier Interest Account - Monthly Interest (14 Day Notice)					
	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
£250,000+	4.65	4.55	4.13	4.05	3.24
£100,000-£249,999	4.44	4.35	3.92	3.85	3.08
£25,000-£99,999	4.18	4.10	3.66	3.60	2.88
£10,000-£24,999	3.76	3.70	3.25	3.20	2.56
£1-£9,999	2.53	2.50	2.02	2.00	1.60

Business Call Account - Monthly Interest					
	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
£250,000+	3.09	3.05	2.58	2.55	2.04
£50,000-£249,999	2.89	2.85	2.38	2.35	1.88
£10,000-£49,999	2.53	2.50	2.02	2.00	1.60
£1,000-£9,999	2.22	2.20	1.71	1.70	1.36
£1-£999	1.97	1.95	1.46	1.45	1.16

Clients Call Account - Half Yearly Interest					
	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
£1,000,000+	4.09	4.05	3.53	3.50	2.80
£100,000-£999,999	3.94	3.90	3.43	3.40	2.72
£10,000-£99,999	3.38	3.35	2.87	2.85	2.28
£2,500-£9,999	2.67	2.65	2.16	2.15	1.72
£1-£2,499	0.85	0.85	0.35	0.35	0.28

Clients Call Account - Monthly Interest					
	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
£1,000,000+	4.09	4.02	3.53	3.47	2.78
£100,000-£999,999	3.94	3.87	3.43	3.38	2.70
£10,000-£99,999	3.38	3.33	2.87	2.83	2.27
£2,500-£9,999	2.67	2.64	2.16	2.14	1.71
£1-£2,499	0.85	0.85	0.35	0.35	0.28

Treasury Account - Monthly Interest					
	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
£25,000+	2.94	2.90	2.38	2.35	1.88
£10,000-£24,999	2.27	2.25	1.76	1.75	1.40
£5,000-£9,999	1.66	1.65	1.16	1.15	0.92
£2,500-£4,999	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.40
£500-£2,499	1.00	1.00	0.25	0.25	0.20
£1-£499	0.75	0.75	0.25	0.25	0.20

Business Reserve Account - Quarterly Interest (14 Day Notice)					
	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
£10,000+	3.60	3.55	3.09	3.05	2.44
£1-£9,999	3.24	3.20	2.53	2.50	2.08

Deposit Account - Monthly Interest (7 Day Notice)					
	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
£1+	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.20

BUSINESS MORTGAGES*		
Band	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
A	0.95	11.40
B	0.77	9.24
C	0.73	8.76

OVERDRAFTS		
Band	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
A (and Standard)	0.92	11.04
B	0.83	9.96
C	0.74	8.88
D	0.70	8.40
Unauthorised	2.00	24.00

LOANS		
	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
Flexible Business Loan, Business Loan and Farm Loan - Standard	0.95	11.40
Flexible Business Loan, Business Loan and Farm Loan - Special	0.77	9.24
Flexible Business Loan - Preferential	0.73	8.76
Small Business Loan - Standard*	1.04	12.48
Managed - Small Business Loan*	0.94	11.28

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Meningitis outbreak declared

By SIMON DE BRUNELLES

A HEALTH authority declared a public emergency yesterday after three people died of meningococcal meningitis. The latest victim was a teacher in her fifties, Lynne James, a mother of two, was head of domestic education at Cardinal Newman Roman Catholic school in Pontypridd, South Wales.

In the past month 11 people from Pontypridd have fallen ill with the disease. Besides the three dead — a teenage boy died early last week and a 10-year-old woman two weeks ago — another boy is critical and five other people are in hospital.

More than 1,600 pupils and staff from three schools in the area have received antibiotics and vaccinations.

Dr Meirion Evans, consultant in communicable diseases at Bro Taf Health Authority, said: "By declaring a public health emergency we are effectively calling all hands on deck. We are extremely concerned by this outbreak and we are asking parents to be extra vigilant and alert to the symptoms of meningitis."

Blair in plea to Schröder over Longbridge

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR threw his weight behind the campaign to save Rover's car plant at Longbridge yesterday with a personal plea to Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor.

The Prime Minister raised the future of the threatened works during a brief conversation with Herr Schröder at King Hussein's funeral.

Sources said that, while there were no detailed discussions between the two men, Mr Blair underlined the benefits of the Longbridge plant and of investment in the United Kingdom generally.

He is thought to have asked Herr Schröder to use any influence he has with the parent group BMW to put the case for investment in the new medium-sized Rover car at Longbridge.

They agreed to keep in close touch on the issue, according to officials, and they will meet again at a mini European summit in Bonn at the end of the month.

Government officials have been in talks with the company about the possibility of

selective assistance to help productivity, but so far there has been no application from Rover for any funding.

The meeting between Mr Blair and Herr Schröder came as Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, toured the sprawling Birmingham plant trying to calm fears about lost jobs and possible closure. Mr Byers said he was in close contact with the German car giant, which is believed to be reviewing its strategy for Rover before making decisions later this month.

Fears of mass redundancies, particularly at Longbridge, have eased, but unions called on BMW to end the uncertainty which remains by agreeing to build new models in Britain. In December it promised to build the new Mini at Longbridge.

Mr Byers said: "We will be making the strongest possible recommendation to BMW about the importance of Longbridge."

Unions said they were delighted that Mr Byers visited the plant so soon after the boardroom shake-up.

Experts criticise tax on child benefit

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CITY accountants last night criticised the Government's plan to tax child benefit for high earners, warning of the practical difficulties involved.

It is expected that the Chancellor will announce in his Budget that child benefit is to be taxed at 40 per cent for higher rate taxpayers. He is said to be proposing to tax one million families where either parent earns more than £31,295.

Accountants and policy groups said the money would be hard to collect where couples were unmarried, and there would be an incentive for mothers not to declare that their partners paid tax at the top rate. The Institute of Fiscal Studies said it was unfair to tax couples where the father earned £31,000 and the mother did not work while not taking those where both parents earned just under £30,000.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, of the accountants Chantrey Vella, said that the Treasury had not yet explained how the practical problems would be overcome.

Darling the diplomat walks into the Tories' poverty trap

The trouble with Alistair Darling is that he's too unthreatening. Show him a ruffled feather, and he smooths it.

It was not what Tony Blair wanted. The new Labour project was to delight the Daily Mail by upsetting the Tories and scaring the poor. By this stage in his job, Harriet Harman, Darling's predecessor as Social Security Secretary, had upset the nation's single mums, delighted the Mail and provoked a major backbench rebellion and a ministerial resignation.

But her successor is failing. He lacks the necessary clumsiness. A born diplomat — adroit, evasive, reassuring — his presence at the dispatch box calms MPs horribly. The screams of the Left (music to Blair's ears) have ceased: Darling has turned away the poverty lobby with soft words. "New Labour — no claws!" "Helpless, destitute, unprovided for?" — don't worry: this Government cares! Mr Darling is veering badly off-message.

So plausible has been Darling's insistence that he is a

friend to the poor that the Tories have found their voice. They have begun a convincing attack from the Right. Exposed on his right flank if the Prime Minister had been watching Social Security Questions yesterday he would have been appalled. Darling was singing the praises of his Minimum Income Guarantee for pensioners.

Again. For months this scheme has been assiduously hyped. "Unveiled" more often than a professional stripper, the promise of a generous safety net for all who fail to save for old age has been Darling's chorus all year. So sweetly has he cooed that it is the MPs for the middle classes, not the poor, who have taken fright.

Tony after Tony yesterday made the same point. Desmond Swayne (New Forest West) insisted that, if the State was to be more generous to those who retired without sav-

ings, where was the incentive to save? Darling insisted that it was right to give more help, muttering that he was "looking at" ways of avoiding a poverty trap.

Iain Duncan Smith, for the Opposition, pressed the argument. Darling replied that Tory logic must therefore be to offer less to the one third of pensioners who would benefit from the Government's Guarantee.

Speaking for the two thirds who would not benefit, John Bercow (Buckingham) said that means test would discourage savers. Darling murmured, "I don't accept that at all," but did not explain why.

A fierce attack from the Left sitting behind him would have rescued the Secretary of State from the MPs for the Daily Mail — but none came. He had sold his Guarantee all too well. When urged by Syd Rapson (Lab, Portsmouth

North) to tell us how new Labour would crack down on the massive benefit fraud that robbed Britain of up to £7 billion a year, Darling's reply seemed designed to calm Mr Rapson down. He should have been geeing him up. It was Rapson who was on message.

Malcolm Wicks (Lab, Croydon North) tried to reinforce the message, prodding Darling to agree that family credit was "wide open" to fraud. Darling, poor darling, tried to lower the temperature: there were indeed "gaps in the safeguards"; "weaknesses"; "difficulties to be dealt with". This is no way to the headline: "Minister declares war on scroungers".

Growing in his job, a newish junior minister, Stephen "three-brains" Timmins, is less goofy and more assured with every passing month. This minister looks quite confident of his brief, even relishing the argument. Where Darling's instinct is to deflect, Timmins's is to engage. But both are courteous. To please Middle Britain, the team needs someone really horrid.

Philosophy
storytelling
an open

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Philosophical storyteller with an open mind

IRIS MURDOCH seemed to have a modest opinion of her own talent. "My problem is not being great," she once said. "I'm in the second league, not among the gods like Jane Austen and Henry James and Tolstoy." A bad review, she said, was even less important than whether it was raining in Patagonia.

Novels such as *The Sea, The Sea* (1978), which won the Booker Prize, *A Severed Head* (1996) and *The Black Prince* (1993) may prove her wrong. She wrote 27 novels over the course of four decades, as well as volumes of philosophy — her first book in 1953, was an academic work on Sartre. By the end of her life, stricken with Alzheimer's disease, she had no recollection or understanding, it seemed, of what she had accomplished; though her husband, John Bayley, was able to find a kind of solace for this loss in his moving memoir of Dame Iris, published last year.

"She is not sitting into the dark," he wrote. "The voyage

Iris Murdoch underrated her own talent for seeking out the good, writes Erica Wagner

is over and, under the dark escort of Alzheimer's, she has arrived somewhere. So have I. Her illness was a journey they undertook together.

An illness of the brain afflicting one who lived by her mind seems a particularly painful irony; never more so than in the case of Murdoch, whose genius was for blending philosophical inquiry with compelling storytelling, an ability that may be regarded as one of the highest arts of human consciousness. She relished Shakespeare, James, Tolstoy and Eliot, all writers who were able to embody what might be

thought of philosophical problems — Othello's jealousy, Catherine Sloper's romantic blindness — in characters that live and breathe on the page.

Novels such as *A Fairly Honourable Defeat* (1970) and *An Accidental Man*, written the following year, explored her fascination with the conduct of the virtuous man and the moral complexity of human relationships; in this her art, perhaps, reflected her life.

Her fascination with men whom she regarded as great thinkers was a part of her finding her way in the world. An early boyfriend was Frank Thompson, brother of the historian and peace campaigner E. P. Thompson, under whose influence she joined the Communist Party; just after the war she became involved with Raymond Queneau, the mathematician and novelist; and the Nobel prizewinning novelist Elias Canetti. Was she in love with these men? "I admired the men I was involved with for their personalities and their minds," she said last



Iris Murdoch with her husband, John Bayley, who wrote a moving memoir of her, in their garden last September

er. "I both wished and needed to learn from them." On the brink of the disillusioned 21st century, her work might be viewed as unfashionable, seeking, as it always did, what was good. She was no believer in God, but wrote: "I have wanted in move from 'God' to 'Good', taking 'religion' along too." Yet she did not want her fiction to be

viewed as a mouthpiece for her philosophy; what made the novel moral for her was its ability to encompass all of life. "It had not been his fate," she wrote of a character in *The Philosopher's Pupil* (1983) "not to be interested in anything except everything."

Murdoch, too, was interested in everything, even at the end of her life. When I met her

for the first time last year at a party, she shook my hand, greeted me warmly, her face lit up, in the next moment, I knew she would have no recollection of who I was.

Her novels were able to take in the emotional upheavals of an Anglican lay community in *The Bell* (1958); a stage play, *The Three Arrows* (1972), was

produced in Cambridge with Ian McKellen and was set in medieval Japan. She lived a quiet life, it appeared, but her mind, until her last years, always acute, ranged widely. That is a rare quality in any novelist and, while her death is a loss, her great books are still on the shelves.

Obituary, page 19

Party row thug took revenge on host's terriers

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A HOLIDAYMAKER'S worst fears were realised after she agreed to let her teenage daughter hold a small party for close friends while she was away.

Carol Sykes returned from two weeks in Mexico to find that a gatecrasher had strangled her three dogs, killed 16 goldfish and ransacked her house.

David McLaren, a 21-year-old skinhead, had become enraged at being thrown out of the party for being rowdy. The next night, high on cannabis, he returned while Mrs Sykes' daughter Rebecca, 17, was away and smashed his way in through the patio doors.

Manchester Crown Court was told that he later boasted to friends about swagging around the house carrying the Yorkshire terriers by their throats. The bodies of two of the dogs were found dumped in nearby bushes. The other has not been seen since but is presumed to be dead.

McLaren, unemployed and from Failsworth in Manchester, was known to Rebecca but had not been invited to her party. During the break-in he also put the family's video recorder in the kitchen sink and turned on the taps, and tipped pot pourri into the fish tank. He smashed several mirrors and stole a satellite dish and hi-fi system worth £1,000. Yesterday he was jailed for 12 months after he admitted criminal damage, cruelty to animals and burglary.

Mrs Sykes, a divorcee aged 38, was so upset after the break-in that she immediately left her £90,000, three-storey townhouse in Oldham and moved out of the neighbourhood.

After the case she said: "My dogs were priceless. They were part of the family for 14 years — I'd had them since they were pups."

"What that thug did broke all our hearts. They were all old dogs and they would not do anyone any harm. They were much-loved pets and it makes me sick to the stomach that someone could have done this barbaric thing to us."

Help the Aged staff fear for their jobs

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

HUNDREDS of workers at Help the Aged faced job losses yesterday after the charity predicted that it would suffer a £2 million slump in income.

The charity, which helps elderly people who are struggling to pay their heating bills, disclosed that it was suffering from a drop in customers at its high-street shops.

Managers are consulting the 1,000 employees on ways to save money. It is thought that many deputy managers could lose their jobs.

A consultation letter was sent to staff last week and regional managers are holding meetings with employees.

A spokeswoman for Help the Aged said that customers were spending less in their shops. She added: "The bottom has fallen out of the recycling market, which accounts for 1 per cent of our income."

Worn-out clothes are sold on for the fabrics to be re-used. A decision is expected on March 3. No shops are expected to close.

Ecstasy woman wins hospital damages

By ELIZABETH JUDGE

A WOMAN who collapsed after taking Ecstasy at a nightclub accepted £250,000 agreed damages yesterday from the hospital that she said had failed to treat her properly.

Lorraine Leighton, 25, had to relearn how to speak, read and write after being treated at North Middlesex Hospital. The former beautician now has epilepsy and fears that she will never work again.

She would not have suffered such severe problems had she been treated properly, Duncan Pratt, her counsel, told the High Court. He said the problems created by taking Ecstasy could have been corrected.

Miss Leighton took two half-tablets of Ecstasy at a nightclub four years ago. She left feeling unwell, and was admitted to the hospital in Edmonton, North London, after her sister found her semi-conscious on her bedroom floor the next day.

North Middlesex NHS Trust admitted that hospital staff failed to carry out a blood test on Miss Leighton and that the wrong type of fluid was given in a drip. The trust denied,



Leighton collapsed day after taking drug

however, that this made any difference to her condition and would have argued, had there not been a settlement, that the damage done to Miss Leighton was a result of the Ecstasy.

Approving the settlement, Mr Justice Buckley said: "Tragically this case is only one of an increasing number that so clearly demonstrate the appalling risk of taking these so-called 'social' drugs and the inquiry of those who produce and peddle them and make them available to the young."

He praised Miss Leighton and her parents for the effort

they had made to "make the best of the situation".

Miss Leighton sat listening with her parents as Mr Pratt told the court that her case was "a question of both tragedy and triumph".

The neurological disabilities she had been left with, initially of a most catastrophic kind, had been countered by the effort that she and her family had put into her rehabilitation, he said. She was now able to live alone in a flat.

The court was told that before the incident she was outgoing and had enjoyed a lively social life. She now has poor speech and social skills, and is unlikely to achieve her dream of being a beauty therapist in the West End of London.

Miss Leighton would not comment after the hearing. Her mother, Eileen, said: "I'm just glad it's all over."

Roger Howard, chief executive of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, said: "The responsibility for drugs lies with everyone in society. That responsibility includes having fully trained accident and emergency staff in our hospitals who know how to deal with drug-related problems."

Actress rises to occasion in the manner of Margo

By SUSIE STEINER

MARGO LEADBETTER, the imperious social climber of the television series *The Good Life*, could not have handled it better herself.

Yesterday Penelope Keith, the actress who played her, rose above calls for her resignation as president of the Actors' Benevolent Fund after an acrimonious and protracted battle with a former employee.

Rosemary Stevens, the charity's general secretary for 16 years, withdrew her claims of wrongful dismissal at the eleventh hour after an "amicable settlement" at an employment tribunal in Central London.

But it was a dispute —

fraught with allegations of rumour-mongering, witchhunts and despotism — which has cost the fund over £32,000.

Last night the charity, which supports sick, retired and needy actors, stood to lose a further £1 million legacy from the theatrical agent Vincent Shaw over the affair.

Mr Shaw, 73, who managed the puppet act *Sooty*, said: "I have not changed my will yet because I was waiting to hear the outcome. I would like to know the facts. I want to give my money to actors not solicitors."

The film and theatre critic Michael Thornton, who has

contributed to the fund for 40 years, called for Miss Keith's resignation. "None of this need ever have happened if we had had calm, sensible and wise leadership," he said. "Who is going to pay for it? Not Ms Keith. She has been behaving worse than Margo and Audrey Flors-Barnham (her character in *To the Manor Born*) put together."

The fund responded with a statement saying that Miss Keith, 58, who has been fund president for eight years and was re-elected by its council last June, "has the unanimous support of the whole council and does not intend to resign".



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Peirce returns CBE to No 10

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

GARETH PEIRCE, the solicitor involved in the struggle to right a series of miscarriages of justice, has turned down the CBE she was awarded in the New Year's Honours List.

The move by Ms Peirce, a solicitor involved in the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four cases, came only five weeks after she was given the honour for "services to justice".

But, within days of her honour being published, Ms Peirce wrote to Downing Street asking whether it could be withdrawn.

Last night Ms Peirce, one of the country's foremost criminal lawyers, was clearly embarrassed by the disclosure that she now wanted to turn down the honour.

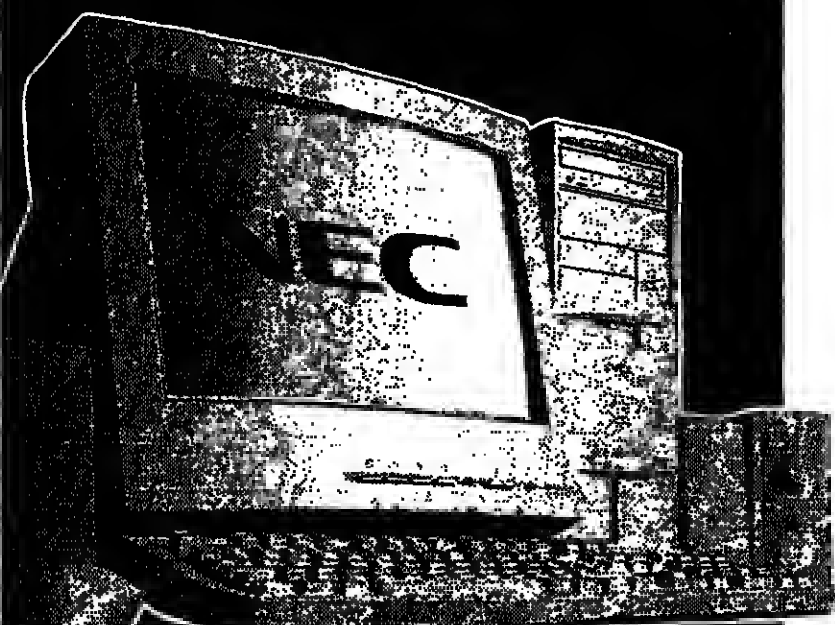
She said: "I am not trying to make a public statement about this. It was not my intention to accept it and, through undoubtedly my own error, it was included in the list."

"I wrote privately to ask if it could be withdrawn. I would apologise for any difficulty that this might have caused."

Ms Peirce, a partner with the leading London solicitors' firm Birtberg and Co, would not give any details about how No 10 had been led to believe she had accepted the honour.

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Court will visit death site in war crime trial

Jury will make legal history with journey to scene of alleged atrocity, write Alan Hamilton and Tim Jones

LEGAL history will be made next week when a British judge and jury travel abroad to see the scene of alleged war crimes. A freezing, windswept corner of eastern Europe will briefly be transformed into the Old Bailey.

The jury, the first in Britain to try an alleged war criminal, will travel at the weekend to Belarus, formerly the Soviet republic of Belorussia. In the village of Domachevo, close to the Polish border, the eight men and four women will be shown where Anthony Sawoniuk, a 76-year-old retired railwayman from South London, is said to have assisted in the mass murder of Jews at the height of the Second World War. Mr Sawoniuk denies all the charges against him.

Britain's first full-scale war crimes trial opened at the Central Criminal Court in London yesterday to warnings from Mr Justice Potts that it would be unusual, difficult and long. Mr Sawoniuk, a stocky, bespectacled man with a shock of white hair, dressed in a brown jacket, check pullover and red tie, listened intently as four charges of murder were read out.

A Securitor guard sat in the dock while the defendant was allowed to sit at a table in the well of the court in front of his two counsel, William Clegg, QC, and Kalyani Kaul.

The atmosphere in No 1 Court was businesslike, even relaxed. The public gallery was empty. The judge was solicitous towards jurors and court staff facing a particularly long haul.

John Nutting, QC, leading counsel for the prosecution, told the court that the case related to events during the Second World War, and to Mr Sawoniuk's conduct as a policeman in his native Belarus.

sia. The court, he said, would travel to the scene the better to understand the nature of the town, the terrain and the site where the defendant is alleged to have murdered a number of Jewish men and women. Looking directly at the jurors, the judge said of Mr Sawoniuk: "It is alleged that he assisted the Germans in putting into effect the policy of mass murder of the local Jewish population. If either you or your family suffered as a result of the German actions against Jewish or other races or religions, then it would be better if you did not serve on this jury."

Of the trip to Belarus, he said: "I am afraid this will not

be a holiday, ladies and gentlemen, let me grasp that nettle straight away. This is not the time of year people would choose to go where we are going."

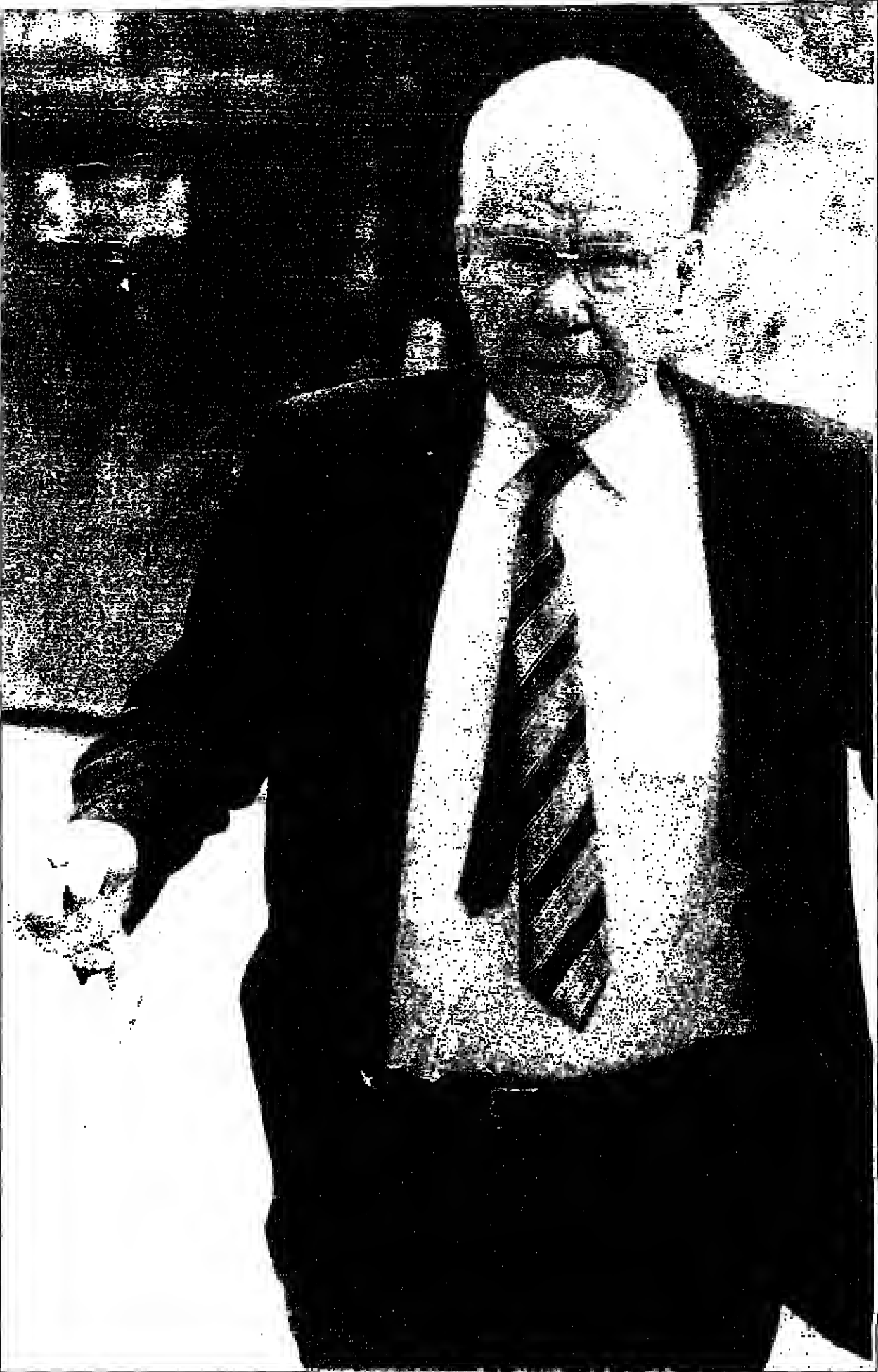
be a holiday, ladies and gentlemen, let me grasp that nettle straight away. This is not the time of year people would choose to go where we are going."

The trial arises from the War Crimes Act of 1991, when the British Government was persuaded to pursue those responsible for atrocities committed half a century ago. The Act sparked a three-year police investigation involving 11 detectives and two historians into possible war criminals living in Britain. It cost £5.2 million. The team looked at 343 cases and eventually put forward five names to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The first trial failed in 1997 when a judge decided that the defendant, Szymon Serafinowicz, 86,

of their journey is being met from public funds.

The trial is expected to last until the end of March and to engender widespread interest and media attention. The judge delivered an unusually stern warning to jurors not to discuss the case with anyone, not even their immediate families. They might have been relieved to hear that, because of the advanced age of the defendant and many of the witnesses, the court days will be mercifully short and will end at around 3pm.

Mr Sawoniuk will be allowed home each night and will not be required to travel to Belarus. He has been on bail since he was committed for trial by Bow Street magistrates in May last year.



Anthony Sawoniuk, a retired railwayman from South London, denies four charges of murdering Jews in Belorussia

German wartime secret service 'useless'

By Robin Young

VICTORY by the Allies in the Second World War was made possible by the incompetence and corruption of the German secret intelligence staff, according to newly released government records.

A report prepared by Professor Hugh Trevor Roper (later Lord Dacre) in April 1945 is among documents newly available at the Public Record Office. It includes the assessment that German intelligence at the crucial stages of the war was "demonstrably incompetent, incapable of reform and threatened politically by rivalries outside".

The professor says that much of the blame lay with the personal faults of Admiral Canaris, the head of German intelligence, who staffed his offices with friends and dependants who were "in general idle and corrupt". In addition, he says, Canaris had "no conception of organisation".

He describes the German intelligence operations as a "loose and irresponsible collection of worthless characters. Canaris refused to dismiss".

Trevor Roper pointed out that German intelligence failed to predict the three key Allied landings during the war: Torch, on the North African coast in November 1942; Husky, in Sicily in July 1943; and Overlord, the Normandy landings, in June 1944. Instead, he says, "the Abwehr was drowned with misinformation, sometimes invented and often deliberately supplied by the Allies".

Canaris's one success, Trevor Roper concedes, was an elaborate system for reporting the passage of British ships through the Straits of Gibraltar, prepared with the assistance of the Spanish.

The admiral's fate was still unknown when Trevor Roper prepared his report, but a note in his writing adds that he was executed by strangulation on the orders of Himmler in April 1945. Almost all the Abwehr's general staff officers were involved in the generals' putsch against Hitler and most were executed, along with many of their agents.

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Woman dies as the cold returns

By A Correspondent

A WOMAN died when she slipped on ice yesterday as Britain braced itself for an extended cold snap. The day saw snowfalls in several areas but known for their summer beaches.

Sussex and Dorset were among counties hit by falls that stretched from the south coast to Scotland, where Aberdeen and Wick both had 5in.

The mother of three who died in Broxburn, West Lothian, had slipped on the pavement yards from her front door. Police said it was not known whether Yvonne Davidson, 34, died as a result of banging her head or froze to death.

Forecasters said the snow would not return for the next few days at least, but that there would be no respite from the cold, with temperatures set to drop even further.

Rob Bunn, senior forecaster at the PA WeatherCentre in London, said: "Arctic blasts of wind are coming from the north and will bring cold weather for the rest of the

week. We can expect a very sharp frost throughout nights this week. Temperatures tomorrow will be similar to those today but the Arctic winds will make it feel a lot colder."

He said that England and Wales could shiver in nighttime temperatures as low as -5C (23F) throughout the week.

Heavy snow brought chaos to roads, with the AA reporting a flurry of breakdowns which peaked at 2,000 calls an hour just before midday.

Roads were particularly badly affected in West Wales and schools in the Lampeter area were forced to close. Snowploughs were used in Somerset for the first time in three years and there was a 3in blanket of snow on Exmoor and the Mendips. In northern Scotland, heavy snowfalls caused road closures from early on and the situation worsened through the day. Grampian Police advised people not to travel unless necessary.

Forecast, page 24

Irvine speaks up for Pinochet lord

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor came to the defence yesterday of Lord Hoffmann, whose links with Amnesty International caused a second hearing before the House of Lords of the Pinochet extradition case.

Lord Irvine of Lairg said in his first public comment on the affair that Lord Hoffmann was a lawyer of the utmost integrity and there was no question of his resigning. "What we are talking about here is an error of judgment," he said at a press briefing in the Lords.

"Lord Hoffmann is a lawyer of the highest ability and should not be lost to the system for that single error."

The House of Lords was forced to set aside its original ruling that the former Chilean dictator did not enjoy immunity from extradition to stand trial for alleged human rights abuses, after Lord Hoffmann's Amnesty links became known. He was in the three-two majority.

The fiasco divided the legal profession, with some supporting Lord Hoffmann but some

senior judges angry that he had made them what one called "a laughing stock internationally".

Amnesty International had told the law lords' hearing that General Pinochet had no immunity and should stand trial. The second hearing, costing an estimated £500,000, has just finished and judgment is expected in two or three weeks.

Lord Irvine, the head of the judiciary as well as the minister responsible for the legal system, admitted that the standing of the legal system had "taken a bit of a knock".

He said: "It is very, very unfortunate. It has never happened before this century and I don't believe it will happen again in 100 years. I don't think there is any question of Lord Hoffmann resigning."

The Lord Chancellor added: "You can be absolutely sure that Lord Hoffmann was completely and utterly impartial in the view he formed of the law. He's a judge of the utmost integrity."

Fly-by reveals secrets of Eros

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

PICTURES of the asteroid Eros, taken by an American robot spacecraft, show that it is smaller than expected.

The Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (Near) spacecraft took pictures of Eros just before Christmas as it flew by the asteroid after an unsuccessful firing of its main engine a few days earlier.

A later, successful firing put it on course to rendezvous with Eros to begin its planned year-long orbital mission, which is to start in about a year. During the fly-by, 222 photographs and supporting spectral observations were taken from 2,375 miles away.

They show that Eros is about 21 miles long, eight miles wide and eight miles deep, rather smaller than Earth-based radar studies suggested. It rotates once every 5.27 hours and apparently has no moons.

Its density is about 2.7 grams per cubic centimetre, close to the average density of the Earth's crust and about twice as dense as the asteroid Mathilde, of which the craft took pictures in 1997.

The Eros images show a ridge that extends along the asteroid for 12 miles. "This feature, combined with the measurements of high density, suggests that Eros is a homogeneous body, rather than a collection of rubble," said Joseph Veverka, of Cornell University, who heads the imaging team. "It might be a remnant of a larger body that was shattered by an impact."

The surface of Eros is pockmarked with craters. The two largest are four miles and 5.3 miles in diameter respectively, less than half the size of Mathilde's largest craters. The existence of fewer, smaller craters could indicate that Eros has a relatively young surface.

The craft and Eros will cross paths again next February, when the spacecraft will go into orbit around the asteroid. "The fly-by of Eros has given us fundamental information that will help us plan

a better orbital mission," says Andrew Cheng, a project scientist at the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, which manages the programme. "It has taken some of the risk out of our orbit insertion manoeuvre and early operations."

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Full Monty in aircraft lands police in court

A POLICE inspector and his publican friend had a captive audience for their interpretation of *The Full Monty*, but their fellow passengers and crew on a transatlantic flight were left angry and frightened by their drunken performance, a court was told.

As the gin flowed, so the swearing and bad behaviour increased from Inspector David Perrett, 59, Peter Beck, 55, and Mr Perrett's son Richard, 26, a police constable, it was alleged.

Two elderly women bore the brunt of the abuse after the pilot was called to try to control the group, who were returning from a golfing holiday in Florida, the court was told. Betty Bailey, 71, said that she had not understood what was meant when one of the men said, "What's the betting it was the two dykes who snatched on us?", but she was immediately told by her friend, Ellen Bartlett, 78, that it was not pleasant.

The three men, all from Halifax, deny being drunk on board an aircraft, an offence under the Civil Aviation Act. They were arrested by waiting police when the Britannia Airways flight from Orlando touched down at Manchester last February.

Ian Metcalfe, for the prosecution, told Manchester Crown Court that the three,

Jury hears that in-flight film and gin did not mix at 35,000ft, reports Russell Jenkins

who were seated on either side of the aisle, were served eight gin and tonics from the trolley and, shortly after, negotiated four more miniature bottles of gin and two whiskeys. Passengers then saw them sharing a bottle of duty-free gin.

Their behaviour deteriorated, Mr Metcalfe said, and they became aggressive and abusive towards passengers who complained to the cabin crew.

"It may be that the situation was not assisted by the choice of in-flight movie, which was *The Full Monty*. That, in some way, may have encouraged the defendants to use bawdy language and, in effect, show off," Mr Metcalfe said.

At one point, it was alleged, Peter Perrett and Mr Beck stood up drunkenly in their seats and began to copy the male strippers' dance routine from the film. John Swift, a passenger, said: "They put their arms in the air and they

were doing what they do in the film. They were gyrating their bodies."

Mr Swift's wife, Kathleen, told the court: "When the film came on, they got noisier and noisier. They were almost taking part in the film. It is very alarming when you are at 35,000ft in the air and all these things are happening around you."

After the men were asked to quieten down, it was alleged, one followed one of the elderly women to the lavatory, where he stood glaring at her.

Mr Metcalfe told the jury: "Behaviour that, in a more open area, would simply be boorish can become threatening and disgusting to people who have no choice but to be in close proximity for a considerable period of time."

Mrs Bailey, of Wakefield, said that the men's behaviour left her feeling faint and upset during the seven-and-a-half-hour flight. She said she could not help but hear Mr Beck, sitting across the aisle, utter a succession of obscenities as she tried to listen to classical music on her headphones. At one point she had to ask him to take his feet off her armrest.

Mrs Bartlett, a mother of four who had recently been widowed, said that she had become distressed when one of the men stood and glared at her menacingly when she went to the lavatory.

She said that the chief stewardess came to talk to the men shortly after. One had his legs splayed across the aisle and it seemed to amuse him that people had to climb over him to get past.

Mrs Bartlett, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, said that the man had made crude sexual comments about a stewardess and another woman. "It was all quite nasty."

Beverley Hill, a senior stewardess, told the court that the passenger sitting in seat 19F, David Perrett, placed his hand on her hip in a suggestive manner as she attempted to serve breakfast.

The case continues.



Passengers said they were frightened by the behaviour of, from left, Richard Perrett, Peter Beck and David Perrett.



Portrait of the artist getting to grips with his work: Sam Whiting, whose paintings have been on show already

Art is child's play for 2-year-old who prefers painting to sweets

By PAUL WILKINSON
NORTH EAST CORRESPONDENT

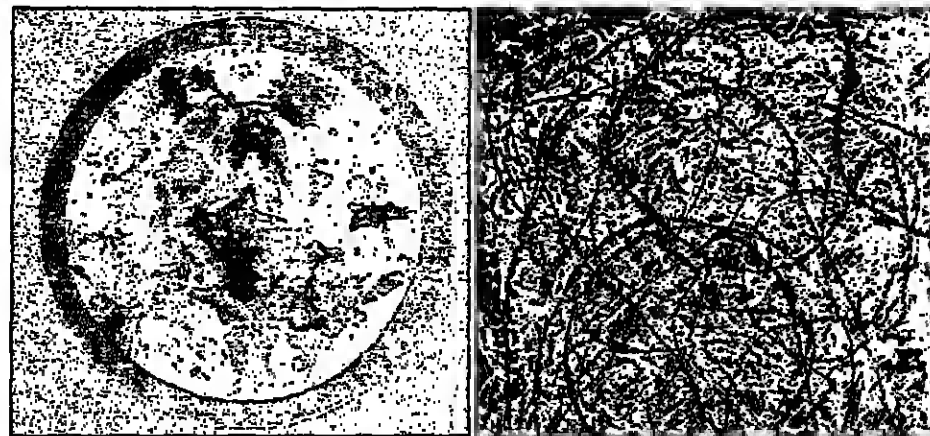
AT FIRST sight, two paintings submitted for a city's art exhibition showed a sense of style reminiscent of Jackson Pollock. However, the influential Pollock was perhaps less likely to have painted a pizza.

The new works are the creations of Sam Whiting, who is fulfilling some cynics' viewpoint that abstract art can seem like the work of a child. Sam is two years old.

His interpretation of a pizza and a work in blue and orange entitled *Abstract* are up for selection against paintings by adult artists for inclusion in the Winter Exhibition at the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull.

Sam, who has painted since he could hold a brush and palette properly, has already impressed the local artistic community with his version of *Bonfire Night*, which was displayed at the gallery last year.

Yesterday, his mother, Claire, who paints heraldic devices, said: "When other kids



In the steps of a master: a genuine Whiting, left, and Pollock's *Watery Paths*

were having trouble getting a lid off a bottle, he was using a paintbrush. He doesn't make a mess with colours, they're always separated out. He prefers painting to sweets."

Ann Bukantans, the gallery's keeper of art, said that works were chosen purely on artistic merit. Her colleague David Scruton, who is organising the exhibition, said: "We do

not know for sure whether Sam's work has been accepted yet. This is an open exhibition and we have collectors who select the works displayed from the total submitted. We show only about 40 to 60 per cent of the work submitted."

Pollock, the American action painter, abandoned the use of brushes in favour of dripping and splattering his

paint. He once said that he wanted to express his feelings rather than illustrate them. He is regarded as the most challenging and influential American painter of the 20th century, and his works have sold for up to £15 million. From March 11 to June 6, the Tate Gallery in London is staging Britain's first Pollock retrospective in 40 years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Care home boss jailed for cruelty

A care homes owner who ill-treated patients with learning difficulties, including one offence of sadism, was jailed for six months at Truro Crown Court. Donald Lee, 49, was convicted of ill-treating four patients, including a woman whose head he pushed underwater. David Poole, 40, a senior carer at the homes in Torrington, Devon, was jailed for three months for five charges of ill-treatment. Judge Graham Neville ordered that they serve half the sentences, with half suspended.

Air crash award

A tyrist whose right hand was badly hurt in a helicopter crash won £200,903 damages in the High Court. Ina Jacobs, 41, of Canvey Island, Essex, took the ride at Southend as a birthday treat. Corniche Helicopters admitted liability.

Legal battle lost

A group of 275 women who claim they have been made ill by the Norplant contraceptive device, made by Hoechst Marion Roussel, have been forced to abandon their battle for compensation after losing legal aid to fight a test case.

Amputation fear

A sailor who was flown to hospital in Hawaii after breaking his leg during the Clipper Round-the-World Yacht Race may have to have his foot amputated. Tim Richmond, 40, of Argyleshire, was injured when a rope wrapped round his leg.

Pupil cleans up

A teenager who became a school cleaner to fund her place at university has received £15,000 from well-wishers who read about her. Meggie Gan, 18, of Bruton School for Girls in Somerset, will read maths and physics at Cambridge.

Mark my word

A shop assistant who gave birth in a branch of Marks & Spencer has named her 7lb 2oz son Kyrton Mark Spencer in honour of his birthplace. Charlotte McCalla, 22, of Birmingham, had no idea that she was pregnant.

TV deviation for Just A Minute

By ADAM SHERWIN

AFTER some hesitation and a not a little deviation, *Just A Minute*, the long-running radio quiz, is to make its debut on BBC television.

The programme made famous by star voices such as the braying wit of Kenneth Williams and the upper crust tones of Derek Nimmo will move to BBC1 later this year, with Nicholas Parsons, its veteran chairman, still in charge.

Ian Messiter devised the format in 1949 for the BBC Light Programme and sold it to American television two years later. Three years ago, BBC executives rejected a proposal to televise the show and Messiter reluctantly sold it to Carlton.

The ITV company ran two series under Parsons, but failed to find a regular audience.

Yesterday a delighted Mr Messiter said that the quiz

was "going home". Regular panellists will be Wendy Richard, Tony Slattery, Kit Hesketh-Devereaux and Linda Smith. The rules will remain the same. Panellists win points for speaking spontaneously on a given subject without hesitation, repetition or deviation, until the minute is up.

Parsons, who has chaired more than 700 episodes of *Just A Minute* since it was first aired on Radio 4 in 1967, promises to remain the butt of his guests' jokes. "It is rather like holding a hypped-up dinner party where the guests engage in clever talk and try to score points off each other, and particularly at the expense of the host," he said.

He will continue to preside over the radio version. When the programme seemed to be running out of steam a decade



Parsons: will remain the butt of panellists' jokes

ago, new comedians such as Paul Merton and Jeremy Hardy were introduced to rejuvenate it.

Enlightened television executives have long recognised the rich pickings to be found in the entertainment departments of BBC Radio. Ever since Tony

Hancock transferred his comic monologues from the Light Programme to the fledgling BBC television service, radio has been used as a breeding ground for talent.

The award-winning *This Is Alan Partridge*, with Steve Coogan, was plucked from radio. The character first appeared as part of *On The Hour*, a Radio 4 news spoof. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* began as book readings on Radio 4. Two television series were sold around the world. Radio panel games have always been quickly assimilated.

BBC Television provided Radio 4 with money to make *Goodness Gracious Me*, the Asian comedy show, because BBC2 could not afford the expense of a series. When it became a hit BBC2 took it, but the programme's team will continue to work for Radio 4.

Barmaids fined over fatal whisky contest

By PAUL WILKINSON, NORTH EAST CORRESPONDENT

TWO barmaids who sold double whiskeys to a man who went on to die of alcoholic poisoning in a drinking contest with his father were both fined yesterday.

Shanna Wheatley and Mary Henderson admitted charges brought under rarely used licensing laws: supplying drinks on credit and selling intoxicating liquor to a drunken person.

Magistrates in Newcastle upon Tyne were told that the barmaids from the New Inn in the city sold a succession of large whiskeys to Herbert Hoyle, 55, and his son Michael, 28, who were drinking for a £110 prize. Wheatley, 40, was fined £400 and Henderson, 58, was fined £300.

Michael Cowen, for the prosecution, said that the two men went drinking on Easter Sunday last year and after five or six lagers in a club they went to the New Inn. "Mr

Hoyle senior recalled saying: 'One day you will drink your father under the table.' They then started a drinking competition with double whiskeys.

"Mr Hoyle asked for drinks on tick and Mrs Wheatley gave them to him. Mr Hoyle senior is unable to remember how many double whiskeys they had and the next thing he remembers was being in hospital."

Wheatley and Henderson refused to comment after the case. At the inquest on Mr Hoyle, the Newcastle Coroner recorded a verdict of misadventure.

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£10,000	up to	£20,000	6.40%	6.15%	4.82%
£20,000	up to	£40,000	8.50%	8.25%	5.50%
£40,000	up to	£200,000	7.20%	6.95%	5.50%

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£5,000	up to	£10,000	7.20%	6.95%	5.50%

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£250,000	up to	£500,000	5.20%	4.95%	3.96%

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£140m to give home carers a holiday

THE country's unsung legions of carers are to receive £140 million from the Government to help them to take short breaks from their duties.

The money, announced yesterday by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will enable six million carers to take a holiday, attend evening classes, or simply catch up on household chores.

Spread over three years and available in England only, the grant provides official recognition that taking a break from caring is essential to reduce the psychological, emotional and physical stress faced by carers. The Scottish Office has allocated an extra £5 million a year for breaks and the Welsh Office will make an announcement next month.

Mr Prescott said that carers were the unsung heroes of British life. "One in eight people devotes large parts of their lives to helping others. There are very many stories about ordinary people doing extraordinary things," he said.

It is estimated that carers

Grants will allow 'unsung heroes' to take a break from burden of duties, reports Alexandra Freen

save the nation more than £34 billion a year in providing services that might otherwise fall to health authorities and social services.

More than 3.5 million carers look after someone with a disability and 850,000 provide help for more than 50 hours a week. Nearly 60 per cent of carers do not receive visits from the main providers of support services.

Although some councils and voluntary organisations provide support and respite care, provision throughout the country is patchy and inadequate.

The new money is part of a package of help for carers outlined in a policy document, *Caring about Carers*. The measures include council tax reductions for more disabled people and their carers.

There will be more help for

the 25,000 to 50,000 children who care for a sick or disabled parent, including the designation of "link workers" in schools, to help pupils who are too scared to admit to teachers that they are carers for fear of being taken into care.

Carers will be able to consult personal advisers in job-centres about returning to work or combining caring and employment.

Carers of disabled children will receive more practical support and carers who are not in paid employment will also be entitled to receive national insurance credits towards a second pension.

Social workers and health workers will be required to consider the needs of carers when assessing the help required by the people they are looking after. Employers will

also be expected to be more flexible and to give carers time off for emergencies.

Carers' organisations expressed concern that the proposals contained no mention of specific funds to develop and run local support centres for carers.

David Butler, chief executive of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, said: "We want to see extra money for local authorities wanting to set up carers centres, and an assurance of continuity of funding for existing carers support projects."

Carers, however, were more enthusiastic. Nikhil Mandavia, 19, of Barnet, North London, looks after his mother, who has leukaemia, and his father, a diabetic. He does all the housework, helps with the cooking and ferries his parents to hospital appointments.

He said: "The most important thing in this for me is that they are proposing that carers get breaks, so that they can spend time with other people and lead their own life."



Full steam ahead: John Pearce yesterday with the locomotive that inspired the Rail Brain of Britain contest

The undisputed king of all trainspotters

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A TRAIN buff who spent three hours a day for eight months swotting up on his favourite subject has won the title of Rail Brain of Britain.

John Pearce, 57, a former British Rail manager, yesterday collected his modest prize, a single share in a restored 1916 tank engine. As newly crowned King of the Trainspotters, he can claim to know more about railways than almost anyone else alive.

To win against a hundred other entrants he had to answer 210 questions such as: Which European station has four different systems of electrification in operation? Even Mr Pearce was temporarily stumped by that one, racking his memory of rail networks in the Low Countries before realising the answer was next door to his birthplace in Stratford, East London. Mr

Pearce, from Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, was helped by his wife, Marion, who accompanied him on expeditions to obscure libraries to find the answers.

The contest was organised by the 4247 Preservation Society to raise money to restore an 80-year-old engine rescued from a scrapyard in Barry, South Wales. Mr Pearce, who worked on the railways for 29 years until 1994, paid his £4 entry fee and was sent the 240 "train teasers", to be answered in his own time.

He said: "It was no walk-over. I puzzled over some questions for ages. But I answered the lot. It did show me there were a lot of things I didn't know." Roger Wicksted, the competition organiser, said: "He is a worthy winner. His knowledge of trains and the railway is second to none."

ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

1. What is the nickname of the train on the California Western Railroad?
2. What became of Stoke Gifford marshalling yard in Bristol?
3. In 1845 which was the longest British railway tunnel?
4. How did Tim raise £800 for charity?
5. At which station can you see the Duke of Beaufort's arms on display?
6. Where hangs Turner's *Rail, Steam and Speed*?

ANSWERS: 1. The duck. 2. It became Bristol Parkway station. 3. Woodhead. 4. In the early 1900s the Paddington station supervisor's dog, Tim, carried a collection box round his neck. 5. Bodmin, Gloucestershire. 6. The National Gallery.

Crash PC cleared on death charge

By PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICEMAN who killed a pedestrian as he sped to answer a 999 call was yesterday cleared of causing death by dangerous driving.

PC Ian Graham had been told by his control not to attend the emergency, but he said that he did not receive the message. When he hit John Todd, 39, he was driving on the wrong side of a suburban street at more than 60mph. There was uproar among Mr Todd's family when the jury returned its verdict at Newcastle Crown Court. His weeping sister ran out shouting: "My brother's life meant nothing."

PC Graham, 26, denied that he was driving dangerously when he hit Mr Todd in Washington, Tyne and Wear, in November 1997. As he sped along the dimly lit residential street, where the limit was 30mph, he overtook a car and swerved onto the other side of the road, passing a pedestrian crossing and mounting the pavement.

Mr Todd, a fitness instructor who had a 10-year-old son and whose wife was expecting another child, was going home from work when he was hit as he stepped into the road. He died in hospital.

Noye 'has lost battle to stay in Spain'

By GILES TREMLETT AND STEPHEN FARRELL

KENNETH Noye is expected to learn today that he has lost his fight against extradition from Spain.

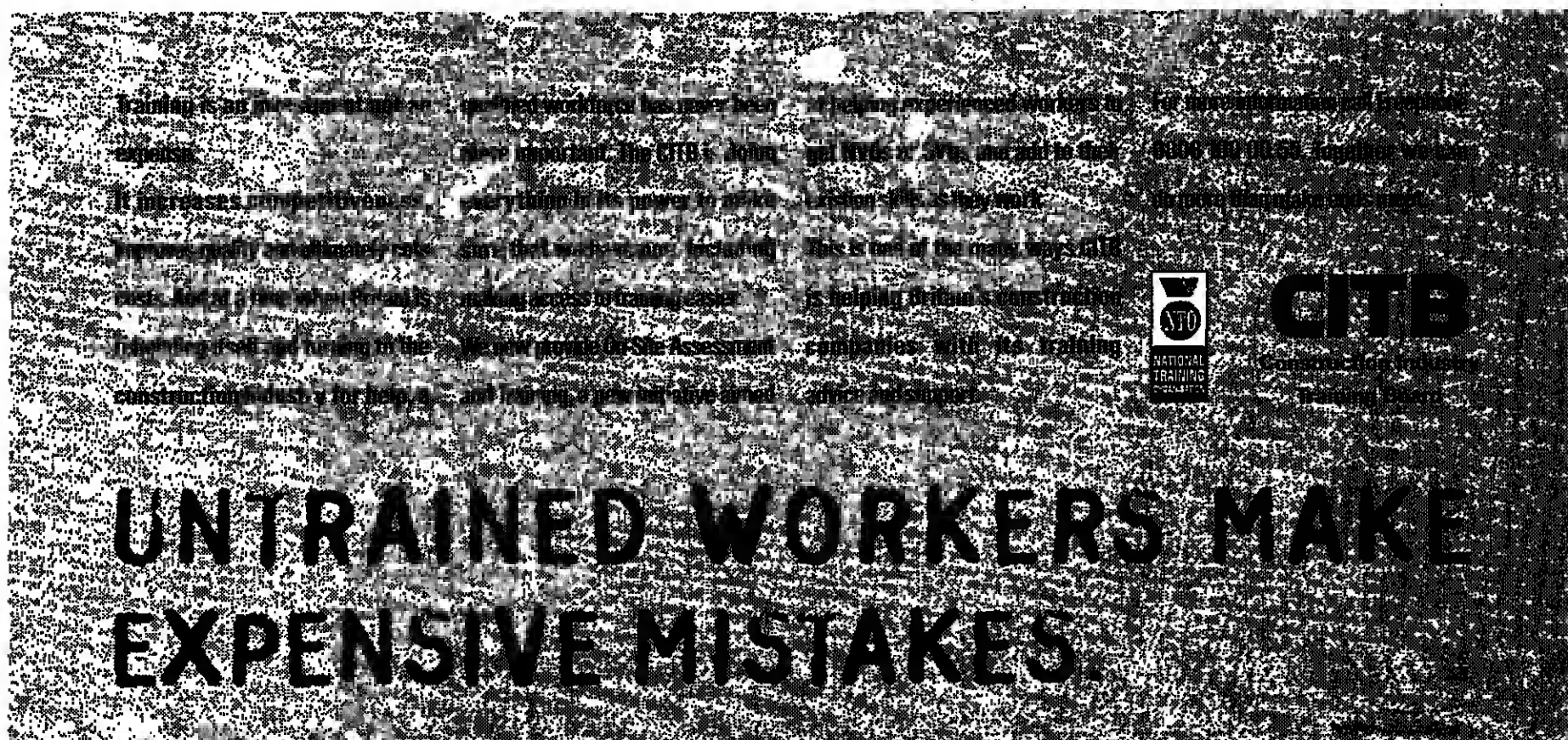
Mr Noye, 51, wanted for questioning over the M25 "road-rage" killing of Stephen Cameron, should be back in England by the summer, Spanish lawyers believe.

A Madrid court will today make public its ruling over Kent police's application to return the 51-year-old property millionaire to Britain over the death of Mr Cameron, 21, who was stabbed to death on a slip road near Swanley, Kent in May 1996.

The lawyer representing the British Embassy in Madrid, José Ramón García, said that although he had not been officially notified he believed that the court had approved the extradition request. Detective Superintendent Dennis McCookin, leading the investigation, said: "We have been advised that the extradition request will be granted."

Mr Noye's Spanish lawyer, Manuel Murillo, confirmed that if extradition had been approved he expected to present an appeal within three days.

Last week Mr Noye appeared in court in Madrid to protest his innocence and claim that he could not get a fair trial in Britain.



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Teacher jailed for Spanish inquisition

Pupil's tormentor had lost earlier job, Simon de Bruxelles reports

A TEACHER who forced a boy aged 14 to lie bare-chested on drawing pins during a test on his Spanish homework was jailed yesterday for three months. When the boy answered questions wrongly, he had to perform forfeits that included having an ice cube placed on his bare chest and walking barefoot over drawing pins at the teacher's home.

Kevin Hawkins, 40, has resigned as head of modern languages at a public school in Gloucestershire. After yesterday's hearing at Stroud magistrates court, it emerged that he had lost a job at a Home Counties comprehensive in 1987 after a complaint that he had been undressing with pupils aged 12 and 13 in a storeroom during lunch breaks. At that time, his name had not been placed on the Department of Education's discretionary "List 99", which enables other schools to uncover the past of suspect teachers.

The boy in the latest incident sustained a minor puncture wound to the chest. Hawkins admitted common assault at an earlier hearing. In trying to explain the incident, Conrad Sheward, for the defence, said: "Teaching can be a very fulfilling occupation, but sometimes it can distort the development of the teach-

er. If you spend most of your hours with schoolchildren, sometimes you behave like a child."

Yvonne Cant, chairman of the bench, told the teacher: "The offence is so serious that custody is the only way of dealing with it, because you were a person in a position of trust and authority. At your instruction, a pupil who at the age of 14 must be considered vulnerable was subjected to a completely unprovoked assault."

The boy had been ordered to call at Hawkins' home in the school grounds after failing to hand in his homework. He was forced to perform a forfeit for every wrong answer on Spanish verbs. Martin Setchell, prosecuting, said: "The first forfeit was to stand on one leg. The second was to do press-ups. For the third, drawing pins were scattered across the floor and the boy had to remove his shoes and walk across the pins."

"Next the boy had to remove his top and lie bare chested across the drawing pins. For the next forfeit, the defendant brought in a piece of ice and put this on the boy's chest." After the five forfeits, he fled the master's home and notified the school and the police.

Hawkins told the police: "It was a crazy thing to do and I am paying the price for it." The court was told that he has now been placed on an Education Department blacklist which means he will never teach again.

The headmaster of the school, which cannot be named, said all possible checks had been made before Hawkins joined the staff. He said: "All independent schools, as indeed all state schools, are required to carry out full checks, taking up references, checking List 99 and checking against criminal records. Nothing was found to indicate that this teacher was unsuitable."



Daniel Grover's collection of tokens is boosted by his father, a postman

'Token crazy' Daniel is school's collecting star

By Hannah Betts



A SCHOOL told by inspectors that it needed more books has been performing wonders in *The Times* Free Books for Schools scheme, thanks to a one-boy collecting operation. Daniel Grover, of Geoffrey Field Junior School in Reading, has a secret weapon: his father is a postman who gathers up unwanted tokens on his round. In the first week of the scheme, seven-year-old

Daniel amassed more than 1,000 tokens.

Charlie Clare, headteacher at the school, said: "All our children are putting their backs into the campaign, but Daniel has been the real star of the show. Our last Ofsted report said we must improve our stock of library books and this goal has become a key part of our literacy strategy."

Denise Grover, Daniel's mother, said: "Daniel has always loved books and, since *The Times* scheme started, he's been going tokens crazy. The whole post room has given their support. It's been wonderful."

Daniel's 13-year-old brother, Antony, wants the next batch of tokens to go to his school. Mrs Grover said: "He's begun saying it's not fair that Daniel's the one getting all the attention."

If you have a story to tell about collecting for scheme, call our hotline on 0171-895 9018 (office hours only). For inquiries, call the helpline on 0845-604 0312.

Token, page 33

PE master wins payout after assault case fails

By Richard Duce

A TEACHER who was sacked before a court cleared him of assaulting a troublesome pupil reached an out-of-court settlement worth thousands of pounds yesterday. Peter Singlehurst, 34, took his case for unfair dismissal to an employment tribunal after he was sacked from his physical education post at a Roman Catholic school in Kent.

The St John Fisher School in Chatham ignored police advice to stay any disciplinary action until the outcome of the court case. Mr Singlehurst was eventually cleared last month of assaulting the 14-year-old boy.

On the day his tribunal case was to be heard in Ashford, the two sides agreed a cash settlement that is understood to be near the £12,000 maximum allowed. It is believed that Mr Singlehurst will be given an agreed reference.

The pupil, now 15, who had 23 detentions in one year, has since been suspended for an unrelated matter. He accused Mr Singlehurst of grabbing him by the throat during a classroom confrontation last May after the teacher ordered him to stand with his face against the wall for disrupting the lesson.

Edmund Fowler, for the prosecution at Medway Magistrates' Court, suggested to Mr Singlehurst: "Your hand went

Apple for Sir falls foul of town hall sleaze clean-up

By Shirley English

TEACHERS who accept apples from grateful pupils risk falling foul of rules for employees to be adopted by a council.

The innocent classroom tradition is under threat from a code of conduct that will ban local authority employees from accepting any personal gifts or hospitality, however small. It is being introduced by East Renfrewshire council and applies to councillors and to all 3,500 employees. The measures, expected to be passed by a meeting of the full council tomorrow, have angered teachers' unions, who claim they constitute an insult to the profession.

The council says the guidelines are an effort to clean up the image of local government before the council elections in May. But critics of the catch-all code complain that it fails to differentiate between small acts of kindness and genuine attempts to bribe or corrupt.

Tino Ferri, who teaches English and Italian in Glasgow, said: "This is carrying the anti-sleaze campaign too far and to a place where it does not exist. Years ago I received a porcelain mug engraved in Latin from sixth-formers at the end of term and I still treasure it."

Mr Ferri, a member of the national executive of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, added: "What is happening in society if a child cannot show his or her appreciation for their teacher?"

The guidelines say that the council expects the highest standards of conduct and integrity from its employees and elected members. "The council is committed to the elimination of fraud and corruption. For this purpose, employees should not accept personal gifts, hospitality or legacies."

A council spokesman confirmed that the code did cover small gifts and tokens of affection from pupils to teachers, and said that problems might arise in secondary schools around examination times, when attempts might be made to influence grades with gifts.

Councillors and officials will have to refuse private gifts or gestures of hospitality from businesses. Lollipop ladies, home helps and dustmen who traditionally get small gifts at Christmas will have to turn them down with apologies.

Normal disciplinary procedures will be invoked against any employee caught breaking the rules, or anyone found to have made malicious reports against colleagues.

There is clearly a million miles of difference between a teacher getting small gifts from pupils or a planning director getting a huge bribe from a developer. But this is a catch-all code, the council spokesman said.



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The Lords in their hands

'Heavyweight' team must decide future role of second House, write Philip Webster and Valerie Elliott

TWO leading trade union figures, a former Tory Cabinet minister and a bishop were named yesterday as members of the Royal Commission which will decide on the shape and functions of the second House of Parliament.

The Government asserted that it had picked a "heavyweight and balanced" team to serve under the chairman, Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. They include Bill Morris, the left-wing general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

And it responded to criticism that the commission had been appointed merely to do the bidding of the Government by claiming that the membership showed that it was "not a poodle" of ministers.

The commission has been asked to report by the end of the year on the second stage of reform, and one of its members admitted yesterday that it would have "to get its skates on" to meet the deadline.

Mr Morris, one of the surprises in the names issued yesterday, is joined on the commission by Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, who is a member of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee and a former general secretary of the print union Sogat.

Lord Hurd of Westwell, the Tory former Foreign Secretary, is the leading Conservative on the list and has for long time taken a positive attitude to Lords reform. Dawn Oliver, who was a Liberal Democrat member of the Cook-Maclean committee on constitutional reform before the last election, is the Liberal Democrat nominee.

The commission, which will hold its first meeting shortly, will make recommendations on the "role and functions" of a second chamber although its terms of reference require it to "maintain the position of the House of Commons as the pre-eminent chamber". Its proposals will be considered by a joint committee of both Houses and ministers say they hope legislation could be passed to set up the new chamber before the next election.

The Government last night

warned Tory peers against obstructing its programme, ahead of debate on the Lords reform package. Baroness Jay of Paddington, leader of the Lords, was commenting after Conservatives tabled an amendment on tomorrow's second reading of the Health Bill.

Lady Jay said: "Such a motion from the official Opposition at second reading is unprecedented since 1985."

"If this is an indication that the Opposition is withdrawing from the usual conventions of the House, that is a matter that will have to be taken into consideration when other matters more directly affecting the House of Lords are being considered."

Ministers have said that they are "minded" to support the temporary retention of 91 of the 750 hereditary peers, pending full-scale reform. But this is dependent on Tory peers not obstructing the Government's programme.

The Health Bill abolishes the NHS internal market, sets up Primary Care Trusts, establishes a Health Improvement Commission and increases the penalties for prescription fraud.

The House of Lords Bill, ending the automatic right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the upper chamber, gained its Commons second reading last week and starts its detailed committee stage next Monday.

Lord Strathclyde, the Tory peers' leader, said: "Labour want a weak Parliament. We want a stronger one. We trust the Commission will now help deliver it."

"We hoped to see more independent academics and constitutionalists on the Commission but we trust that Lord Wakeham and Mr Kaufman will resist backstairs pressure from No 10."

He insisted: "The Commission must see the new House maintains the spirit of the existing one, and they must take evidence from the public."

"After all, Parliament exists to defend the liberties of the people. It must not act as the rubber stamp of any government, however great its majority may be."



Lord Wakeham



Gerald Kaufman



Lord Hurd



Lord Butler



Bill Morris



Anthony King



Richard Harries



Baroness Dean

Ready to think the unthinkable

Valerie Elliott examines what the ten new appointees can bring to the Royal Commission on Lords reform

The remaining ten members of the Royal Commission were named yesterday. Tony Blair had already confirmed that Lord Wakeham was to be the chairman and Gerald Kaufman, the Labour MP, had also been appointed. The ten are:

Lord Butler of Brockwell, 61, former Cabinet Secretary and now Master of University College, Oxford. Turned down the chairmanship because of a heavy commitment at the college, which is celebrating its 750th anniversary. A former custodian of the constitution, he will be a stickler for propriety and detail. Known as a smooth operator, he will ensure consensus. He and Douglas Hurd could prove a powerful axis.

Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, 55, the former trade union leader who is fast becoming the female face of the new Labour Establishment. Very active in the Lords, and a member of the Privy Council sub-committee which vets political honours.

Lord Hurd of Westwell, 65,

former Conservative Northern Ireland, Home and Foreign Secretary, who has carved a new career in international banking. Known as a thinker, he gives weight to all sides in a debate. But wedded to tradition — he hates tinkering with things that work — he could prove awkward.

The Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, 59. A leading liberal, extremely bright, and one of the most active senior churchmen. Likes a fight and can take on leading scientists and academics and beat them. A leading proponent of "Just War" — the Church's justification for use of war, and backed use of force against Iraq.

Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, 65, former clerk of the Parliaments, knows more about the subject than anyone else on the commission and has heard

all the arguments pro and con. For him it is a case of *délà vu* — he was involved in the Crossman plan 30 years ago to reform the Lords when he was joint secretary of the inter-party conference on Lords reform.

Anthony King, 64, Professor of Government at University of Essex, and former member of public standards watchdog. Great value on a committee, thinks the unthinkable and says it. Not afraid of controversy. Will cut through humbug. Frequently tipped as a future member of Upper House.

Bill Morris, 60, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. His appointment is seen as a sop to the unions. Close to Gordon Brown, and has frequently caused trouble for the Labour leadership. A Eurosceptic.

Dawn Oliver, constitutional lawyer at University College

London. The second choice for the Liberal Democrats after Julia Neuberger turned it down. She has worked hard for the party on constitutional issues, served on the joint Labour/Lib-Dem consultative committee on constitutional reform and has worked as an aide to Robert Maclean, the party's constitutional spokesman. A solid background figure, rewarded with some limelight.

Anna Beynon, national manager of BT Wales. A fully-fledged member of the Welsh establishment elite. Married to Leighton Andrews, Wales's leading political lobbyist and PR consultant, who organised the "Yes for Wales" campaign in the devolution referendum. A member of the Welsh Language Board and a governor of National Film and Television Council.

Kenneth Muir, chair of the Centre for Scottish Public Policy and former European Commission representative in Scotland. Worthy member of Scottish Labour establishment and rather predictable nominee from north of the border.

Don't expect fireworks from cautious choice

Some members of the Royal Commission were worried about how much time it would take up. They were reassured that it might involve perhaps a couple of long weekends at Ditchley, as one Cabinet minister says, only half-jokingly. They will certainly not have to spend the whole of a hot summer together as the authors of the American constitution did in Philadelphia in 1787.

The Government takes a minimalist view of the commission's work. Its function is to examine some fairly narrow questions and help to establish popular consent for long-term reform. Reform of the Lords links many strands of constitutional change: the role of Parliament, the judges, devolution and Europe. A changed second chamber could bind these together.

Last month's White Paper raises the possibilities but imposes strict limits on the commission's terms of reference. The Commons alone will determine who forms a Government and its right to remain in office, must continue to have sole powers over the provision of financial support and "must ultimately have the right to secure any of its legislation introduced in the Commons with the consent of the Commons alone, except for a Bill to extend the life of a Parliament".

At present, the Lords is both legally constrained and observes self-denying ordinances over its powers. The White Paper suggests institutionalising the understandings under which the Lords operates by leaving the powers intact but restricting the circumstances under which they are used.

But "a better approach" might be to reduce the theoretically available powers, recognising that they might be used more often. This might affect the length of time a Bill could be delayed, the creation of for-

mal conciliation arrangements between the two Houses and the second chamber's powers over secondary legislation.

The White Paper also gives a few nods and winks about how the commission should look at the relationship of the second chamber to the new devolved bodies and to the European Parliament. The Government wants a hybrid House, mixing nominated members, including some existing life peers, plus some indirectly elected and possibly elected members.

This considerably narrows the remit of the commission. There are still important issues on whether representation from the nations and regions of Britain should be of voters, legislators or executives. So ministers are principally looking for an independent view on the balance of a mixed second chamber. Moreover, the Government will also be putting forward

its own view, via a Labour submission, and ministers will not, of course, be bound by the commission's recommendations.

The membership is weighty but unadventurous, with a couple of obvious weak links. The career of Lord Wakeham, the chairman, has been marked by finding workable solutions to problems rather than by intellectual radicalism. The same is true of several other members, though Lord Hurd of Westwell could surprise given his strong views on the constitution. And Lord Butler of Brockwell, the former Cabinet Secretary, has already stated his opposition to a wholly appointed House. Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, the former Lords clerk, is not an obvious fan of the Government's constitutional programme.

Don't expect any fireworks, but rather some cautious compromises to fill in the gaps of an already well-worked-out government plan.

Peter RIDDLE ON POLITICS

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Menzies Campbell competed in the 1964 Olympic Games. His rivals should not underestimate his staying power

Veteran sprinter with will to win

Menzies Campbell is limbering up for the Lib Dems' leadership race. Mark Inglefield reports

MENZIES CAMPBELL'S wife has been known to describe her 37-year-old husband as the "fastest white man on earth", a reference to the time he sprinted for his country in the 1964 Olympic Games.

For this reason alone the younger hopefuls limbering up for the Liberal Democrat leadership race would be well advised not to underestimate Mr Campbell's staying power or will to win.

Certainly Menzies (pronounced Ming, as in vase) is relaxed about his elder statesman status. "I am what I am. It's a fact which will be in people's minds, but not an important one, I hope," he says.

He laughs off the fact that he is dying to get in shape for the contest — it was reported at the weekend that he was just 7lb heavier than his physical peak. "It's purely coincidental," he says. "I walk a lot in my constituency."

Mr Campbell, a Scottish lawyer, is in appearance a million miles away from the Liberal Democrat stereotype. With

his bespoke suits, Jermyn Street shirts and elegant silk ties he cuts a sartorial figure around Westminster.

"I don't know if being known for that is a good thing or not," he says. "It reminds me of what Jeremy Thorpe said. 'You should dress to the right and look to the left.'"

His background, he says, is ordinary. His father was a building manager and mother a civil servant.

He is the only frontrunner who is married. His wife, Elspeth, is considered an asset, but Mr Campbell insists he would never play the marriage card. But would his wife be happy about him becoming a leader of a political party? "My wife is a great enthusiast," he says carefully.

That may be so, but friends are surprised he is even contemplating standing. He saw at first hand the mauling Lord Steel of Aikwood and his wife Judy were given by the press during the 1987 election campaign, and said at the time "It was not a price I would be prepared to pay". So when did he



Campbell in RAF kit: sortie was "very frightening"

change his mind? "I think it's rather vulgar to apply for a job when there isn't a vacancy," he says.

Mr Campbell came late to Westminster. He won Fife North East in 1987 — his fifth attempt at a seat — at the age of 46, by when most ambitious MPs have already established themselves.

But he sailed through a variety of spokesman jobs before reaching his present position, speaking on foreign affairs and defence. He is considered an effective performer in the Commons, as well as on television. He was a close ally of Paddy Ashdown, and the only leadership contender to sit on

the joint Cabinet committee. He will not be drawn on the extent to which co-operation will be continued, but speaks positively about constructive opposition.

But critics suggest that he may well find himself hampered by a lack of support among the bobbie-hatted, open-toe sandalled activists who will decide the matter.

"He doesn't go to a lot of fringe meetings at party conferences, and that counts for a lot in this party," a senior Liberal Democrat says. "It will stand against him in a one member, one vote election."

Mr Campbell rejects this. "I go to all the fringe meetings that concern my areas of interest," he says.

Some say the very difference between Mr Campbell and Mr Ashdown — the Special Boat Squadron action man and the urbane, easily likeable, lawyer — could swing in his favour.

But a photograph in his Westminster office seems to say otherwise — Mr Campbell dressed up in RAF pilot kit after a sortie in a Tornado jet. All very macho, a task about it, but his answer removes any suspicion that he is concealing the Paddy within. Meekly, he says: "It was very frightening, but I wasn't sick."

Senate agonises on rebuke to Clinton

AS CLOSING arguments began in Bill Clinton's trial last night, senators intensified their attempts to find agreement on a way of rebuking the President after his inevitable acquittal this week.

Democratic senators, many of whom have wanted to abandon the trial and censure Mr Clinton since the proceedings began, hope Republicans will join them in a condemnation of the President when the trial ends on Thursday or Friday. But there is opposition from some Republicans who believe such a move is unconstitutional and smacks of face-saving by politicians who want to be seen to deplore Mr Clinton's conduct but do not have the courage to convict and remove him from office.

"Impeachment is about the Constitution. Censure is about getting political cover," said Phil Gramm, a Republican senator from Texas. "They want to be on both sides of the issue. They want to say the President is not guilty. They want to say he's guilty."

Opening the prosecution's remarks, James Sensenbrenner, a Wisconsin Republican, said the trial was not caused by those arguing the case, or Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor. "Regardless of what others might say, this was caused by William Jefferson Clinton, no one else."

He said it was not about the

As the President awaits his acquittal, support grows for censure, writes Damian Whitworth in Washington

Lewinsky affair but perjury and obstruction of justice, and that acquitting Mr Clinton would set a dangerous precedent, sending the country on a path "back towards an imperial presidency above the law".

Keeping Mr Clinton in office, he went on, when he was guilty of criminal conduct would "undermine the authority of the President, undermine the rule of law and cheapen those words that have set

America apart: equal justice under law". However, support appeared to be growing for a motion of censure endlessly redrafted by Robert Bennett, a Republican, and Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, which would state that Mr Clinton's behaviour had been "shameless, reckless and indefensible" and that he had "deliberately misled and deceived the American people".

The carefully crafted denunciations would not say that Mr Clinton was guilty of charges he faces in the trial — perjury and obstruction of justice — but that he "gave false and misleading testimony and impeded discovery of evidence in judicial proceedings".

Mr Bennett said that most senators favoured censure and wanted "to leave some kind of formal statement of indignation and outrage over what this President has done". With the videotaped depositions from Monica Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan and Sidney Blumenthal apparently failing to convince any more senators that Mr Clinton should go, it is clear that the required two-thirds of the 100-member body will not find him guilty. The only question is how many Republicans will side with Democrats and vote for acquittal.

Democrats hope that a censure motion could be brought to the Senate on Friday after votes on the articles of impeachment on Thursday. There is likely to be argument today over whether or not to open debate on the articles of impeachment to the public. Some Republicans are wary of a televised debate in which Democrats are expected to condemn them for prolonging the trial — a view likely to appeal to the public, who dearly wish it would end.



Ammer's view of the Republican Party's dilemma in the Austrian newspaper Wiener Zeitung

Michael Gove, page 16

Hero on the \$1 bill gets a \$3m facelift

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

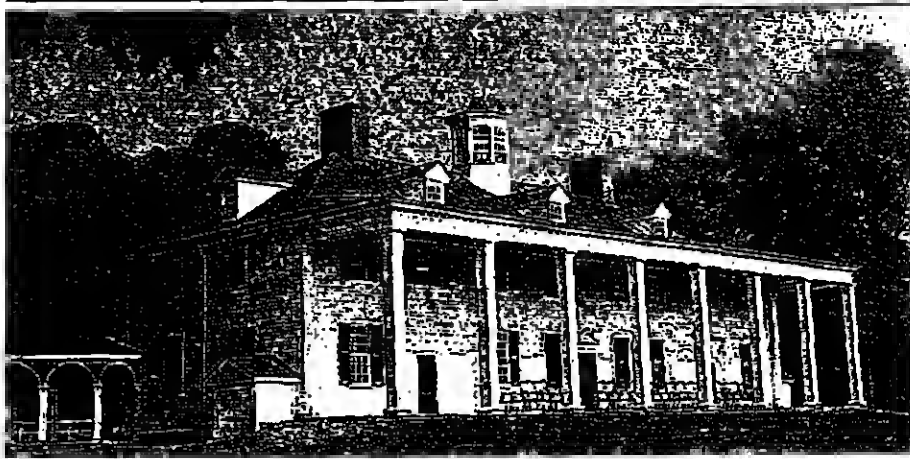
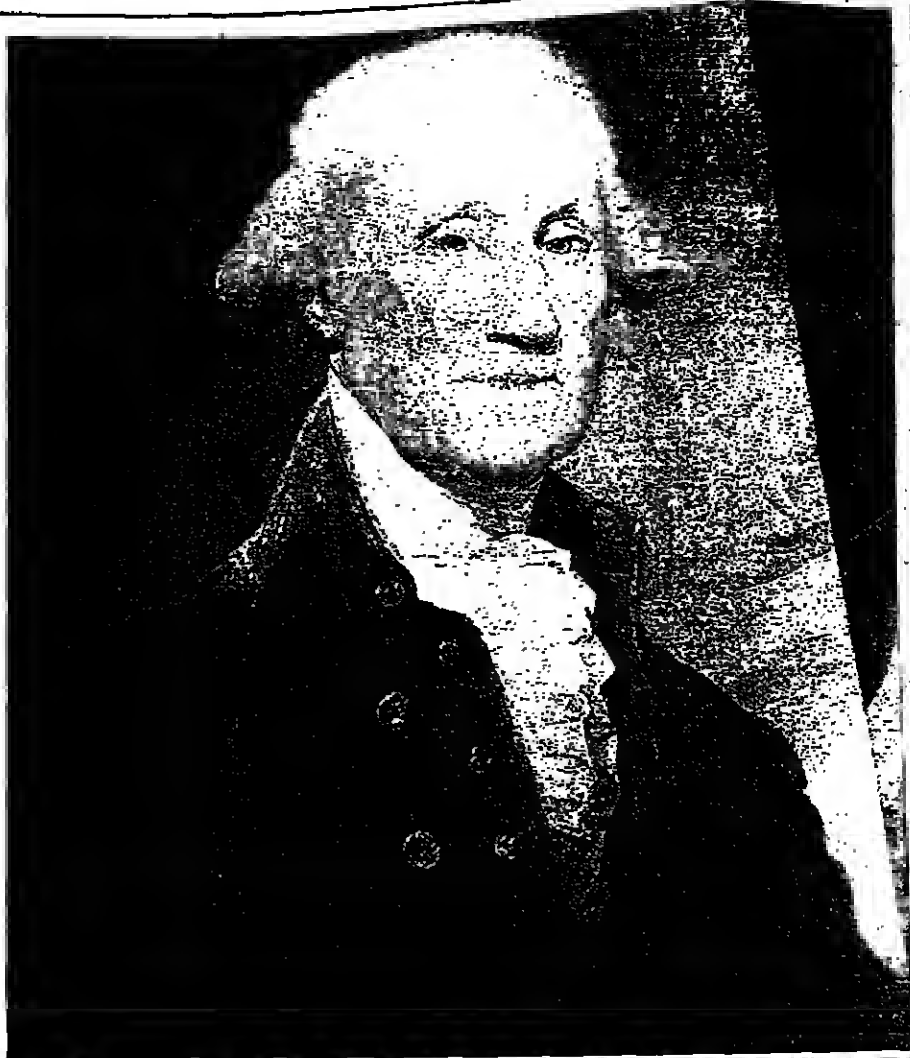
NEVER before has there been such a campaign to save the image of a President. He will be marketed like a pop star. Tens of thousands of communities across America will be encouraged to hold celebrations of his achievements. The press will be deluged with positive stories. Robert Redford is even thinking of making a film of his life.

For George Washington, first President of the United States, it is time for a serious \$3 million (£1.8 million) makeover. Two hundred years after his death, the man who wooed the War of Independence, had the capital named after him, and gives people the world over a patrician look every time they pull out a \$1 note, is to receive the attentions of a marketing team and the spin doctors.

His problem is that people do not really know who he was. At a push they remember that he was the first President or that he appears on "greenbacks". But that's it. In polls for the greatest Presidents, Washington does not get a look in (Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt are the top three).

"He had great name-recognition, but not a high quotient of excitement. Dull, boring. He was the first President, of course. So what?" said Michael Quinn, deputy director of programmes at Mount Vernon, Washington's home on the banks of the Potomac River near the city that bears his name. "He was a victim of his success. He made it look too easy."

The difficulty — and President Clinton may or may not find this comforting — is that people tend to remember a President who has a whiff of scandal about him. Thomas Jefferson, said to have sired a child by his slave, Sally Hemings, is always being written about and made the subject of television programmes and films. The fact that



George Washington, whose death bicentenary is being marked this year, and his home, Mount Vernon, on the Potomac near the capital that bears his name

recent DNA tests appear to prove the stories has boosted his fame even more. The childless, untarnished Washington just cannot compete.

But Mr Quinn insists that perceptions can be changed. "He actually had one of the more interesting lives you can imagine," he said.

To mark the bicentenary of Washington's death, the marketing team at Mount Vernon will emphasise a rags-to-riches story, from self-taught surveyor to bril-

liant general to statesman. His importance as an architect — even though Mount Vernon is surprisingly modest — and his work as a farmer and environmentalist will

be trumpeted. An exhibition of artefacts is touring the country with such gems as his ivory teeth, two new websites are up and new books are heading for the shops. About 50,000 communities are to be encouraged to mark the bicentenary by planting trees and ringing bells. A full-scale period state funeral is also to be staged for television. "We're going to try to make it feel like the Diana funeral," said Melissa Groppe, manager of special events.

LINKS
www.georgewashington1799.org — the official George Washington bicentennial website.
www.mountvernon.org/WH/ghwpage/ — the official White House George Washington website.
www.earlyamerica.com/1799/ghw/1799index.html — David Rumsey's Life of George Washington.

US military relics anger Panama

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN PANAMA CITY

FOR almost a century America's military has used the rainforest beside the Panama Canal for target practice and to test explosives, including chemical weapons.

But, as the United States prepares to hand over the canal and its bases by the end of this year, it says that it cannot clean up all the hazardous munitions left behind. Buried in the rainforest are an unknown number of UXOs — unexploded ordnance — that the Pentagon says cannot be removed. Although about 30,000 acres, the bulk of the ranges, are being swept clean, it says another 7,000 will have to be fenced as off-limits. After December 31 it will be Panama's problem.

Outraged Panamanians say that is not good enough. They are backed by a grow-

ing number of American voices, including the former President Jimmy Carter who signed the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties that set the timetable for US departure. "We are walking away from our responsibilities there," said John Lindsay-Poland, director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a San Francisco-based peace group.

The US presence has always been controversial. To get the canal built, it manufactured the separation of Panama from Colombia in 1903, then created its own colony around the waterway. In America's resentment at handing back the canal, the signing of the 1977 treaties was one of its most unpopular moves.

Officials reject accusations that America has failed to meet its Canal Treaties obligations, including taking all "practicable" measures to remove hazards. Uneven

and dense jungle terrain is said by military officials to make it technically impossible to clean all "impact areas". To find buried UXOs would require cutting down vegetation, causing untold damage to a delicate environment.

Experts say that the Pentagon is exaggerating the technical difficulty and environmental risk to avoid paying for a proper clean-up. Panamanians, who say their country — population 2.7 million — lacks the resources to tackle UXOs, worry about the risk to human life, pointing out that at least 21 people have been killed and others maimed by leftover explosives.

US officials can find records of only seven deaths, and some feel the Central Americans should be more grateful: the United States is, after all, leaving behind property with an estimated market value of \$4 billion (£2.5 billion).

Safe after 12-day snow ordeal

Leavenworth, Washington: A pair of boots sticking out of the snow led to the rescue of a couple who had been missing for 12 days after a snowmobile excursion went tragically wrong.

George Back, 50, was hallucinating and frostbitten but alive when found beside his two barking Norfolk terriers

at the weekend. His wife, Diane McManus, 44, was dead. Mr Back and his wife had rented two snowmobiles on Sunday 27 near Fish Lake, about 80 miles east of Seattle.

They tucked the dogs inside their snow suits for what they had expected to be a two-hour outing. They became lost when a storm closed in and a

search for the couple was called off two days later.

Two men who were riding snowmobiles in the area on Sunday spotted Mr Back's booted feet sticking out of a hole that he had formed in the snow. "He thought he had been there six months and was afraid we were going to leave him," one the men said. (AP)

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♂ What women want from men ♀

You laugh in bed? Perfect

A man in the house is worth two in the street — Mae West

The perfect man, for any woman, is the man who loves her constantly, passionately and well; who adores and admires her; is reliable and exciting; an earthy Adonis and a heavenly father figure; a beautiful son; a Bacchic lover and a calm, sober, but funny friend. Can you find all these attributes in one man? Not bloody likely!

So what's a woman to do? Having two or three men seems to be the answer, but it creates so many logistical snafus. What happens when lover No 1 and lover No 2 arrive on the same train for the same weekend? Nobody can spend 100 per cent of her time getting laid, arranging to get laid, administering TLC to various men with various needs. And what woman wants a man whose needs she cares nothing about?

Recently, a divorced male friend said: "When I was married I spent 20 per cent of my time getting laid. Now that I'm divorced, I spend 85 per cent of my time getting laid." There's the problem in its essence: putting together one perfect man out of two or three slightly imperfect candidates is too time-consuming and tiring. We are finally driven

The perfect man has a broken nose, or crooked teeth

to monogamy not by morality but by exhaustion. One candidate wins out over the others, and we succumb to the blandishments of one (hopeful) perfect man. This solution has on its side convenience, honesty, simplicity and stability. But does it have stability? Statistics show our monogamies tend to be serial, that sooner or later both spouses begin playing around; that now most children can expect to grow up in single-parent households (or become somebody else's stepchildren).

A young man once said to me: "Marry as often as you like. But promise me I'll be your only lover." His wishful plea had true longing in it: the longing for stability in an unstable world. If marriage no longer provides that, perhaps love affairs will. I treasure the fantasy of marrying and marrying, yet having only one lover through it all. But I am neither young nor foolish enough to want to endure the psychological wreckage of splitting

up yet again. Knowing full well that life is too rich and strange for love to come in the form of a prearranged, predictable, prefabricated model. I still feel tempted to compile a composite of the perfect man. He's beautiful, but not without imperfection: a broken

With Valentine's Day looming, Erica Jong considers whether there is any such thing as the ideal man — and whether women would want him

nose, crooked teeth. He's intelligent, never pedantic. Most important is his sense of humour. He can laugh in bed. Though indefatigable, he's not obsessive about sex. He doesn't think of it as a performance, and doesn't berate himself if he doesn't have a constant erection. He's passionate without being tragic.

The worst by-product of the "sexual revolution" is the substitution of performance for passion. For many men sex is now another area of competition. The son of a friend told me that from 16 to 21 he never "allowed" himself to have an orgasm with a woman, so concerned was he with pleasing his partners. "Here were women like you and my mother writing about how men were so insensitive to women's needs. So I figured the main thing was to give the girl as many orgasms as possible. I got so controlled I couldn't come myself. Now I say 'let's bring back the John Wayne image of manhood, when men could prematurely ejaculate and not care!'"

What he didn't consider in his nostalgia for John Wayne is that no man of Wayne's generation could have been sitting at a dinner party (at his mother's house) having such

an intimate talk with his mother's friend. Something has changed for ever in men as a result of the sexual revolution and the women's movement, and that change can be summed up as greater openness.

No one seems immune to performance anxiety. Our society, having decided sex is acceptable, if not optimal, without love, seems to have replaced the desideratum of endless love with the desideratum of endless erection. When sex becomes as competitive as racket-ball or the stock market, surely an essential quality has been lost.

My perfect man, then, is no slave to performance. He doesn't have a nervous breakdown if he can't get it up one night, and is secure enough to know he is liked for his brains and humour.

"The perfect man is someone you love who also loves you," said the psychologist Mildred Newman. "If I had to single out one quality," said the singer-songwriter Carly Simon, "it is a sense of joy."

There is no such thing as a perfect man; and no one even gets close," said Helen Gurley Brown.

"Perfection is terrible. It cannot have children," wrote Sylvia Plath, alluding, I think, to the fact that perfection is final, closed and leaves no room for growth. When we seek the "perfect" man we know that if we found perfection, it would be inhuman. We love people for their humanity, not because of their perfection but despite their imperfection.

When I think of the men I have loved most, I remember small imperfections: a crooked front tooth, or slanting or shaggy brows. My first husband was a fellow graduate student. We read Shakespeare in bed and immersed ourselves in medieval history, 18th-century literature and old movies. We were soulmates, but then our souls changed. My second husband represented stability, order and sanity as I was diving down into my unconscious to retrieve my first real poems. Once I learnt how to do it for myself, his role became more and more artefact, and his deficiencies more and more apparent.

My third shared with me the longing for a child, the passion to create a life around reading and writing novels while rearing our daughter. For a time we also were soulmates,

but then our needs and souls changed. Is this failure, or a complex kind of destiny? I prefer the latter. Each choice had its own logic at the time it was made. The fact that the union could not endure doesn't invalidate the choice.

Perhaps my life has been more complex because of the blessing/curse of becoming a celebrated writer. But I believe my fate has not been so different from that of other women of my generation.

Raised to believe we needed men as parental figures, we grew up into a world where we had to assume burdens our mothers would have deemed masculine: earning a living, managing money, changing tyres. We found ourselves more capable of nurturing men than of finding men who could nurture us. We started out looking for daddies and wound up finding sons. We were ready to enjoy this kind of relationship, but saw it did not come without a price tag. What eluded us was finding true partners.

I have been much like many women of my time. In my twenties, unfilled in my career, I married a father figure, in my thirties, well established in my career, I felt free to choose a man merely for his "sense of joy". When even that proved to

have its own problems I stayed single for eight years. I still regard this as the most critical period of my life. When I remarried, I was ready for a true partner and married someone I had come to consider my best friend. It was a marriage unlike any other I had made. It connotes to grow in unpredictable ways.

The perfect man would combine beautiful boy and steady daddy, but that combination rarely turns up. "The sort of men who buy one life insurance are never much fun in bed," Fay Weldon says. Ah, but one wish-

es they were. True, most successful women will opt for *joie de vivre* and sex appeal over insurance but all long-term relationships still require reliability as well as joy. There are problems with all relationships not based on true equality: they must become equal, or break down.

Where does one find a true partner? At this stage in the relations between the sexes women are often more enlightened than society permits men to be. Women still have all the insights of an underclass: a self-deprecating sense of humour that punctures pomposity; a view of the overclass from the ass up, so to speak; a social perspective that only an outsider can have. All these things force us to grow.

Men, instead, still constitute an overclass, still tend to be coddled by women, from mothers onward, and are deprived of the chance to have their pomposities punctured. Some exceptional men overcome this, but many do not.

I don't mean that one gender has got a rawer deal from the sexual and feminist revolutions. Both have been shaken to the core, both are reeling from the shocks. But women have been forced to have certain insights into society that are largely unavailable to all but the most empathic, artistic, intelligent men. It is thus terribly hard for most women of my generation to find true partners. Not bed partners, not fun partners, but men who will shoulder burdens equally with us and who possess that quality of joy.

Ah, the dream of the true partner. He is, after all, "the perfect man." Do we find him, or train him? And if we find him, will he go mad at 25 develop depression at 30 or wind up making love to baby-sitters at 40? Can we love him without coddling him? Can we make demands without being left? Can we find a balance between giving and taking?

I thought I'd given up on the perfect man, but I never really did. I just readjusted my notions of perfection. The perfect man is, after all, the one who sees the best in you and holds you to your own best ideal. Because he loves who you are, his vision helps you to become more truly yourself. As you grow sure of yourself in his love, you mirror his best self as well.

● This is an edited extract from *What Do Women Want?* by Erica Jong, £14.99.

The job, the flat, the car — but not the man

Can a matchmaker find you love? Interview by Grace Bradberry

Penrose Halson sits on a tiny tapestry work chair in a diminutive, mint-green parlour. Her knees are hunched up towards her chin, forming a lectern on which she rests her large pink book, which has rows of yellow and white card-board strips slotted into each page. Each one represents a person. There are more yellow than white. More women than men, one bleakly assumes. "No," she says firmly. "I ran out of yellow ones. It's arranged by age and sex, and the last page is 'courting'."

Halson's mission is to move the strips of cardboard from the front of her book (singles) to the back (tentative couples), and then out of the book altogether, two strips having mated to become a smiling wedding photograph. Many such pictures clutter the Georgian rooms from which Halson works, a testament to her success as a professional matchmaker. Since she took over the Katharine Allen Marriage Bureau in 1986, she has married off hundreds of couples but has rarely been a guest at the nuptials. "Because the couples won't admit how they met, I would stick out like a sore thumb," she says.

It is one of the contradictions of our "anything goes" society that the search for love is still dogged by rigid conven-

tions. Picking someone up in a club is acceptable, joining a dating agency is not.

To Halson this appears nonsensical. "Why be the plaything of fate?" she asks in a new book aimed at thirty-something women.

Halson is a rather hesitant woman of 58, courteous, concerned, shy when it comes to her own private life. She married only ten years ago, and it was her husband Bill who suggested buying the bureau because he believed that she would be good at the work.

She has been. She refuses to supply statistics — "those agencies that do are either guessing wildly or fibbing," she says. In any case, some of her clients' marriages are only indirectly to do with her. The meetings that she sets up often lead to a widening of people's social circles and an increase in their self-confidence — "the ripple effect" and "the halo effect," as she dubs them in the book. By allowing both of these to work, women are more likely to meet their "enlightened man".

The book is aimed at women because, she says, their lives have changed much more than men's. This is reflected in the changing professional status of the women seeking her help. Teacher, PA, self-employed caterer, — but now there are also City high-flyers, women with salaries of

£200,000 plus bonus, who, as she puts it, "have the job, the flat, the car, but not the man".

Halson's views are not especially fashionable. She gets lots of young women who have lived with a partner for ten years, only to find themselves single at 38. "Men having honourable intentions did protect women," she says.

As a woman gets older statistics start to work against her; there are more women than men on Halson's books. "The proportion is 60-40. But it's significantly better for a young woman of 30." Women in their late thirties wishing to have babies, but seeking a man without existing children, present a problem. So do very short men, very tall women, middle-aged women, very young men. While she does not turn people away, she makes the position clear before they pay their £750 (a year's subscription). "I'm pretty depressing if, say, a woman is 39, wants a baby and is 5ft 11in."

Most of the male clients are in their thirties. The initial face-to-face interview puts off married men; the fee puts off the insolvent. All of them want to marry.

"They're very superior men," says Halson. "They want to marry but they do want to make sure as far as possible that they make a good marriage." Some work in offices where approaching a woman might be seen as sexual harassment. (Apparently this is a problem in the City.)

The only man she remembers turning down was 55 who required a woman between 50 and 53 with a specific golf handicap living within 15 miles of Northwood Tube. And she admits to being frus-

trated by women who demand that a man earns more than them, is more than 6ft tall, or prescribes a very set "type".

So what about Halson herself. Why did she not marry until 48? Too picky? Too picky for what? she says, showing the only sign of prickliness so far. The daughter of a civil servant, her two sisters married at 19 and 22 respectively. She was educated at seven

27, her mother sent her to the Katharine Allen agency. One man wanted to marry her but she thought him an idiot as a result. She was 37 when her mother advised her in the *New Statesman* and she met Frank, 15 years her senior. They had known one another for two months when they decided they would stay together. The same day Frank died of a heart condition, a terrible twist of fate that brought "chilling desolation".

In her early 40s she advertised for a tenant to share her Fitzrovia flat. Bill Halson turned up. After seven years they wed. "Being married to Bill is the most wonderfully liberating state," she says.

I am dying to know what men lurk in the big pink book. We embark on a condensed version of Halson's introductory interview. I rattle off my age, education, height. We move on to preferences. Must he have a certain salary? How tall? How do I feel about race and religion?

There is a mid-thirties academic. A City trader who could be termed cash-rich, time-poor. A political researcher of 30 — "He doesn't earn much now, but he might later," she says. (It becomes clear that many female clients place a certain emphasis on salary. Many also specify "no Muslims" — there is no room for political correctness when seeking a mate.)

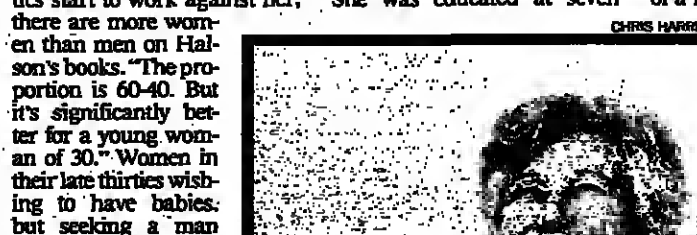
But what's love got to do with it? "I'm sure that in all cases it's love of a sort, whatever that means," says Halson. "I agree with Prince Charles on that. It can mean all sorts of things to different people."

● Happily Ever After — How to Meet Your Match, by Penrose Halson (Pan, £6.99)



Halson: Women's lives have changed so much

schools, including Millfield, where the playwright Robert Bolt taught her about metaphysical love poetry. She took an external London University degree at a private college in Oxford, then spent a year in Beirut, staying with an aunt and uncle. She returned to England and worked first in publishing, then as a teacher. There were boyfriends, but no one she wanted to marry. At



Halson: Women's lives have changed so much

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Halson: Women's lives have changed so much

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TOMORROW...
What will you be doing?

Barabbas is safe in the White House

The trial of Bill Clinton has found the US people wanting

The American voter has had enough of the Clinton trial. Like a corporate client at the opera, he cannot wait for the curtain to come down and normal life to resume. It ain't over, apparently until the fat lady sings. Well, now that Monica has testified, the ungallant thought enters his head that the denouement must be at hand.

And what a curiously unsatisfying end it is. If this affair were an opera it would have to be *Don Giovanni*. President Clinton may not, yet, have clocked up the one thousand and three lovers which the Don managed, but you can't fault him for effort. And like the eponymous hero of Mozart's opera, the President relies on his servants to do the dirty work. The Don had Leporello. Mr Clinton has the White House aide Sidney Blumenthal, who has just been accused of acting as a hired character assassin prepared to rubbish Monica Lewinsky as a "stalker" and then compound his crime with denial. Monica herself recalls the innocent peasant girl Zerlina on whom the Don practises his charm. But striking as the comparison may be between the President and the Don, the trial has lacked what the opera enjoyed — a fitting climax.

Although the audience is as charmed by Don Giovanni as much as any of his conquests are, it recognises that he must account for his sins. When the Commendatore drags the Don off to Hell in the final act there is a sense that justice has been done, at least poetically. It is not just respect for the proprieties of the operahouse which prevent the cry arising from the dress circle that "the guy doesn't deserve it, this is just a sex thing". It is respect for the deeper moral code. The Don is more than just licentious, he is a practised deceiver, an abuser of power.

So why has America not rallied behind its own Commendatore, Kenneth Starr? There are three reasons, none of which leads one to believe that we have advanced morally since Mozart wrote.

There is a widespread belief that the impeachment process is "all about sex". There has been a tendency to judge Mr Clinton's accusers more harshly than the President himself, as though this were an electoral contest and not a judicial process. And there has been a growing boredom with the whole trial which has led voters to demand a speedy conclusion, which is to say an acquittal.

For lovers of the United States, like myself, the acceptance of these three sentiments by American opinion is deeply lowering. From beneath the robes of the Statue of Liberty one glimpses a cloven hoof.

President Clinton was not impeached because of his libido, but because he lied. On oath, in an action brought by a woman, Paula Jones, whom he had sought to coerce and whose reputation was trashed by his henchmen, The White House authorised a lynch-mob to administer a verbal pummeling. One Clinton aide, James Carville, tried to question Ms Jones's motives.

He charmingly suggested that Ms Jones was what you found if you "drag hundred dollar bills through a trailer park". If you drag White House job application forms through the swamp then Mr Carville is what you find.

A variant of the treatment administered to Ms Jones was tried on Ms Lewinsky. Where the former was a gold-digger, the latter was a fantasist. But, as the inquiry proceeded, the real peddlers of fiction were found in the White House. As Chris Woodhead has observed sexual relationships between masterful older men and biddable young women can be educative. We have all learnt from Mr Clinton's affair. The manner in which he has reacted to the exposure of his adultery has laid his character bare. He is the Bart Simpson of politics. "I didn't do it, nobody saw me do it, who are you to accuse me anyway...?"

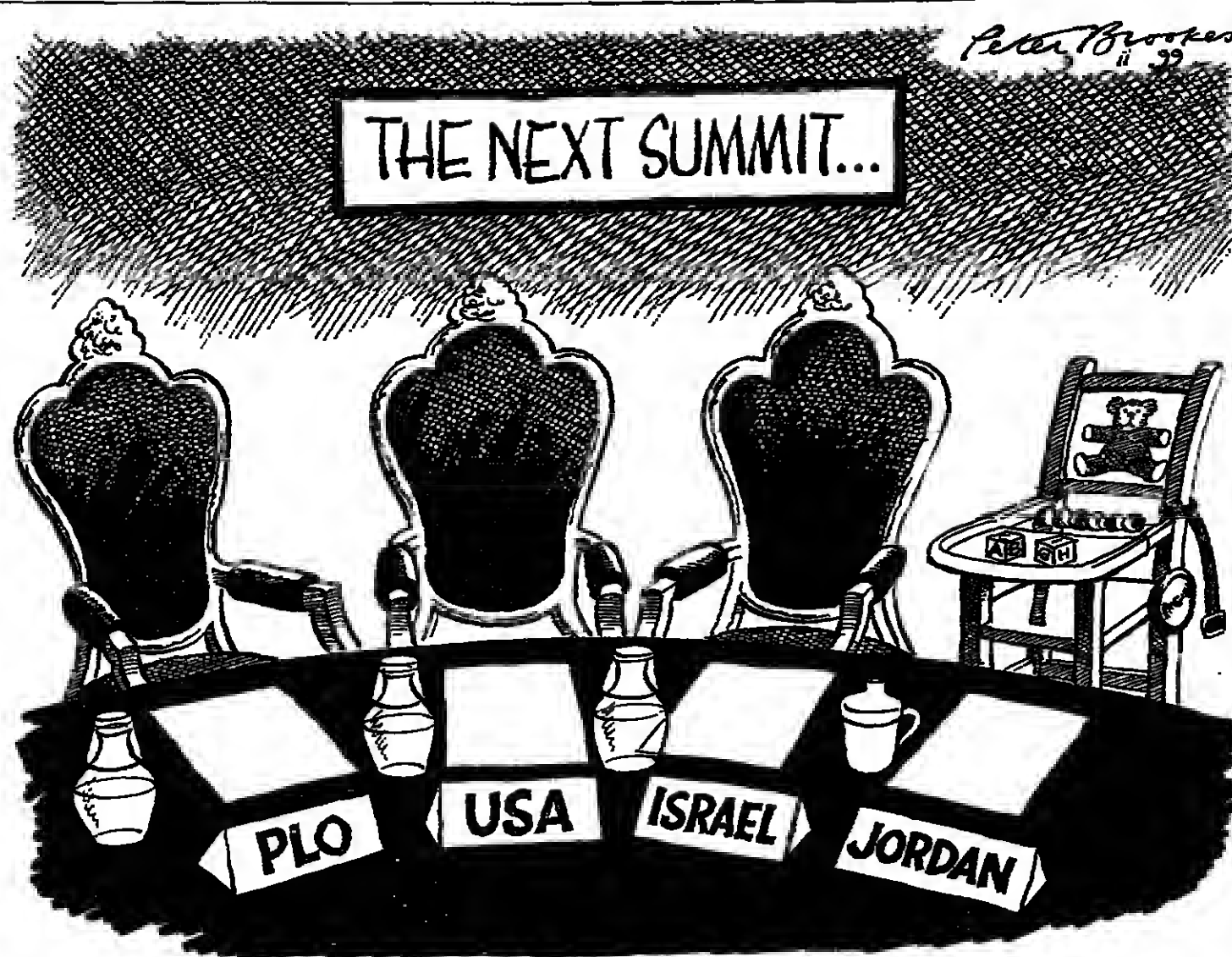
His personal credibility shredded, Mr Clinton has proceeded to diminish that of the West. A.J.P. Taylor has persuasively argued that the First World War was driven by the continental powers' railway timetables. Mr Clinton's vapourising of Sudanese chemical workers and Iraqi children seems to have been driven by Congress's impeachment timetable.

Forget all that nonsense about the bombing being driven by Ramadan. Every major Arab nation is happy to go to war during the holy month. And Mr Clinton has shown so little respect for the tenets of his own Baptist faith that one can hardly expect him to exhibit any great reverence for the Koran. It is, just, possible that the timing of the airstrikes was driven by geopolitical considerations. But given the President's record, how can we believe him? He has consistently shown that he will sacrifice others to stay in office. And by doing so as Commander-in-Chief he has forfeited the moral superiority which the West needs when reserving the right to intervene in other sovereign states. At least when Richard Nixon was trying to secure his position, he ended wars rather than starting them.

The President's accusers have been branded Puritans, which one might have thought was a compliment given that America was founded by them. But the case for impeachment is no more about sex than *Don Giovanni* is about the mistreatment of servants by aristocrats. It is a diverting feature in a chronicle of deceit.

It should not matter what the motives of Clinton's accusers are, nor should the public's enmity-driven desire for acquittal let a guilty man off. If justice is to depend on the personal charms of the protagonists, or the public's prevailing sentiment, then every trial will end in the release of Barabbas. This one has ended with him still in the White House. In a special corner of Hell, Don Giovanni must be laughing.

Michael Gove is a writer and researcher on children's rights. michael.gove@the-times.co.uk



Third Way, or Reich?

Tony Blair's style of government is chillingly reminiscent of Germany in the Thirties, argues Max Beloff

The advent of new Labour has produced a steady stream of books explaining its victory in terms of the personalities involved and the strategies they employed. Since they are unlikely to contain much that is new they make boring reading. Even less useful are the efforts of Downing Street's tame sociologists to give some meaning to the empty concept of the "Third Way". One does better reading books that add to one's general understanding of politics. High on the list should be the first volume of Professor Ian Kershaw's magisterial biography: *Hitler*.

The tale he has to tell is chilling — the violence involved in Hitler's march to power was the prelude to the much greater violence which will feature in the second volume. Yet if one excludes the political violence and racism of Nazism, which one must, there are still telling parallels between then and now. The similarities between Adolf Hitler and Tony Blair's path to power are hard to dismiss.

Ian Kershaw explains how Hitler rose to power, and then having achieved office, led the Nazi Party to complete domination in every aspect of German life. It is that second aspect of the story which is particularly helpful in explaining the unfolding agenda of new Labour.

While most of the dictators whose careers have disfigured this century achieved power through military force, Hitler achieved it through elections in a system of universal suffrage. Because the Nazis, unlike new Labour, never obtained an overall majority before they were in power they needed allies to take office. They pioneered the co-optation of dupes to push through the constitutional changes which then entrenched their own dominance. Labour constantly invokes its own claim to a popular mandate for its own assault on our country's historic constitution. But the party has followed the Führer in using dispensable allies to lend its project an extra legitimacy.

The Nazis realised that the process of seeking total and permanent authority required them to find within the existing system collaborators who thought that their own interests would be advanced if the party could be induced into office under their aegis. Hitler's gift as a tactician was to see how far he could push his demands at each stage without alarming his dupes, and at what point he could safely get rid of

the encumbrances which his temporary allies represented. The use of political figures from other parties to camouflage new Labour's purposes is directly reminiscent of Hitler's tactics. Chris Patten has been taken on to help to emasculate the Royal Ulster Constabulary, while Lord Wakeham must give respectability to the destruction of the Lords. Mr Blair has clearly learnt from history. These gentlemen have not.

Neither, I fear, has business. One of the prime necessities for a party seeking power is money. Hitler could hardly hope that the subscriptions of the rank and file would suffice. So money was sought from business. Much tact was required — a political party, even one making much of its hostility to "Bolshevism", which had "socialist" and "workers" in its title, did not obviously commend itself to industrialists and bankers — but enough businessmen were won over to pay for Hitler's non-stop campaigning. In return, the donors were assured that economic policy would not be radical and that the power of the trade unions would be curtailed.

The Blairite offensive in the City of London had the same general objective and was along the same lines. But in this case personal cards were also played. Once Labour was in government, peerages and even ministerial office were bestowed on some big subscribers. For some multinationals the promise of a more Europhilic policy was no doubt an incentive.

Money alone would not put Hitler into office. He also needed to win over some of the political, military, and even cultural, elites. Again radicalism had to be put into the background and the "wons" co-opted. In the end he had to exact from Hindenburg the Chancellorship nomination and the necessary powers to make it effective. The "Austrian corporal" had to receive the field marshal's blessing. Once the Government and the Reichstag were controlled by the Nazis, such

allies were needed only to assuage foreign fears while rearmament began. It was therefore in the Diplomatic Service that the old elite retained their usefulness. Even when Hitler needed the key post of the London Embassy for a member of the Nazi gang, Ribbentrop had to be married to a fortune and allowed to add a "von" to his name before the appointment could be made. This Government's handling of Whitehall displays every bit as much finesse in stroking the mandarin ego as the Nazis ever deployed.

When Hitler was able to recast the constitution with the aid of pliant legal scholars — to concentrate in his own person the dual roles of head of government and head of state — the full impact of a non-party state was finally apparent to all but the wilfully blind.

By then rival parties — except among the self-exiled — had disappeared. The old parties of the Right and Centre Right, which were needed to make up a majority for the enabling legislation, had succumbed to a mixture of blandishments and pressure. Those who thought that by entering a coalition they were going to share power were to have a rude awakening. Are the Liberals listening to history while they decide on a new leader?

While the historic kingdoms and provinces that have gone to make up the old German empire and its successor, the Weimar Republic, could not be eliminated from the map, they were subjected to a degree of centralisation that made a mockery of any idea of their separate personalities. The party "Gauleiters", not elected officials, were the key to the regime.

We can now see that the Blair "project" embodies similar aims, based on similar methods. When Mr Blair took office, Britain was still a unitary state. But "devolution" has made its parts more amenable to party control than the nation state would have been; we have our Gauleiters-in-waiting —

Donald Dewar for Scotland, Alun Michael for Wales, and an as yet undisclosed nominee for London. Meanwhile, the electoral rules for the new parliaments and assemblies, and for the European Parliament, are devised to ensure that Labour will dictate who is elected. The destruction of the House of Lords — reform is a word that sits as ill with Mr Blair as it did with Hitler — is intended to remove yet one more obstacle to Labour Party domination.

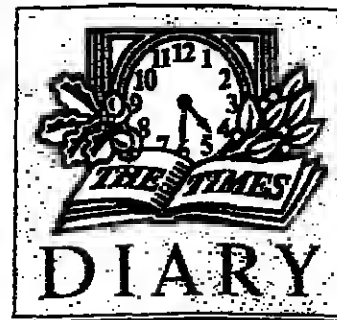
The leaders of Britain's other political parties have shown themselves as gullible as their German counterparts. If Paddy Ashdown had studied the fate of Hitler's allies he would hardly have believed that Mr Blair would give him the guarantee for his party's survival inherent in the Jenkins proposals for proportional representation. The Liberal Democrats are not to be preserved, but absorbed.

It is not clear where the constitutional ambitions of Mr Blair and his coterie stop. Hitler became Führer — the sole embodiment of the German State. We still have a monarchy. But the blow to the hereditary principle in the Lords has revived Labour republicanism. It is not yet clear if Mr Blair wants to include the Royal Family in his "project", or if he wants to present himself and his family as a kind of ersatz royalty.

Once in power, Hitler showed little interest in the details of policy — not for him files or Cabinet meetings, let alone parliamentary-style debate. The resemblance to Mr Blair is again striking. A small body of acolytes acted as a buffer between Hitler and the world just as the Downing Street staff now protects Mr Blair. Architects, film-makers and actors figure in both leaders' courts. One can see in the House of Lords Mr Blair's own Albert Speers and Leni Riefenstahl.

What next? Mr Blair has no Wehrmacht to bring Europe under his sway, but by aligning himself with European Union Socialist parties, and accepting their agenda, he may hope to create the illusion that Europe belongs to him. Meanwhile, we may note that this first volume of Professor Kershaw's book has the subtitle "hubris". The second volume will no doubt be subtitled "nemesis". Need one say more?

comment@the-times.co.uk



Sleaze buster

JAZZY des have lent Jon Snow enough character to make him a TV "personality"; now they have carried him into Parliament. The newscaster is to be chairman of a meeting called to discuss how best to clamp down on sleazy lobbyists.

The Hansard Society debate will be held in the Cabinet Office, whose mercurial secretary Sir Richard Wilson will speak. At issue: whether the purveyors of brown envelopes need to be regulated. Proceedings could become fractious for our colourful sleuth as evidence will be presented by lobbyists and parliamentary plods such as Lord Neill of Bladen of the Standards in Public Life Committee. Snow plans to be strict: "I should be able to keep control. I am not doing it for penurious reasons. It sounded an interesting subject." Sock it to 'em, boy.

● HER struggle to avenge the humiliations of history heaped on the motherland began on May 4, 1979. But Baroness Thatcher's rise to power is to be celebrated by bunker command on April 20 — the birthday of Adolf Hitler.

Leading man

AS IF one fragrant woman was not enough for Peter Bottomley, the Tory MP is riding to the defence of Penelope Keith (left). The hubby of the lovely Virginia (right) is giving



moral support to his actress neighbour, who is accused of unfair dismissal of toilet. "He just couldn't help sticking his ear in," I am told. I am sure he was a tremendous help.

● AS THE chequered flag came down on King Hussein of Jordan, Jackie Stewart, glamour boy and car buff, made the journey to Amman: "I knew him for 35 years," says Stewart, whose grandson Dylan was Hussein's godson. Baroness Thatcher did not make the starting grid: she called to ask if she could go but was told that former PMs were not needed.

Bald truth

HOW to succeed in politics, by William Hague. The Tory leader will offer sage counsel to would-be Leaders of the Opposition during one of Michael Cockerell's "How To" documentaries. "The point is to talk to as many former incumbents as possible," Cockerell tells me.

But Hague's tormented predecessors are not keen to reminisce: after his donkey-jacketed spell at the helm, Michael Foot is not inclined to offer "off-the-cuff advice" while Neil Kinnock talks wearily about having "moved on now". Luckily Sir Edward Heath, keen on giving advice, threatens: "Wait and see".

KOSOVO, IRELAND, KOSOVO, IRELAND... MAKE YOUR MIND UP!



● AFTER Jordan, the Prince of Wales dashed back for a delayed appointment: tea and lentil soup at an organic farm near Oxford run by the National Trust.

River race

EVIDENCE that Cambridge will lose to Oxford in educating Prince William stacks up. After long coasts from Buckingham Palace checked out Lincoln College, I now hear they have swung by Magdalen.

Although the Prince of Wales is a Cambridge sort, William has links with Magdalen. Earl Spencer attended, and the future Edward VIII had rooms in the cloisters, including accommodation for his ADC. "Security at Lincoln would be difficult," I hear. "Its rooms are on a street front while Magdalen's are some way back, although they do overlook the river." Academic excellence seems less of a factor.

● FAVOURITE fountain of Charlie Whelan. The Red Lion is hosting all-party folk nights. Stars include Labour MPs Gerry Birmingham and Ronnie Campbell. Sounds totally missable.

JASPER GERARD

'Flirtation is often a component part of teaching methods — it's certainly one way to capture the attention of bored students'

James Heartfield

There is no pleasure so great, according to Confucius, as watching a man fall off a roof. Schadenfreude is as natural a human emotion as love. So one can forgive the teaching unions their moment of pleasure at the discomfiture of Chris Woodhead. The Chief Inspector of Schools' comments, which appeared to condone sex between teachers and pupils, and the revelation that he enjoyed a relationship with a former pupil, have led to calls for his resignation. Teachers' unions feel that their members have been unfairly victimised for failing standards by Mr Woodhead. Now their persecutor is getting his comeuppance after a Hodgesque gaffe. You saw what you reap.

But the unions which are delighted to see Mr Woodhead slip up should realise that their members are on the same flimsy

roof. And the Government is making it more dangerous still. Allegations of sexual impropriety between teachers and pupils provoke understandable outrage. But teachers should know better than anyone that it is unwise to hurl unsubstantiated allegations of sexual abuse. Changes in public attitudes and the law have made teachers especially vulnerable to false charges of sexual misconduct.

The numbers of allegations made against teachers by pupils trebled in the three years after the Children Act came into force in 1991, although the number of staff convicted or sacked remains as low as before.

Clearly social attitudes towards child abuse have changed. In the past, child sexual abuse was so taboo that allegations were routinely disbelieved, allowing that minority of abusers a free rein. But where we used to

turn a blind eye we are now in danger of wagging the witchfinders' finger. Today it is impossible to discount allegations of abuse made against teachers. According to some child welfare professionals, it is wrong to assume that children can lie. One wonders how they explain *Just William*.

As anyone who has children, or works with them, knows, children do tell lies, often, and sometimes they tell serious lies. Thanks to Esther Rantzen and others, children are also very aware of the neurotic charge which allegations of sexual abuse provoke. These issues are discussed in their hearing in the media, home and school. Pupils may not be as faint with every detail of the 1999 Children Act, any more than the unemployed

were inattentive with the details of Peter Lilley's legislative programme, but in both cases they "know their rights". The word went around the playground in no time that teachers were no longer allowed to lay hands on their pupils. We should not be surprised that children know the force of an allegation of inappropriate sexual behaviour, even if they are only dimly aware of its full ramifications. Nor should we be surprised that pupils deploy this weapon against teachers.

The central provision of the Children Act is that the interests of the child should be paramount. This may be an admirable principle. It is a disaster. It leads to the conclusion that all rights and protections previously afforded adults are trumped by

the interests of the child. In practice it leads to an assumption that the accused is guilty until proven otherwise.

With the new changes in the law of consent teachers will be opened up to yet more allegations of misconduct. Under the new law, sexual relations between teachers and pupils aged between 16 and 18 are criminal. Such relations were always a breach of school discipline and a sacking offence. But the intervention of the law only increases the distrust between staff and pupils.

Both the Children Act and the new law on consent represent the clumsy intrusion of law into relations that were once subject to self-regulation. Trying to impose the strict framework of legal rights and duties on to teachers and pupils fails to take account of the rich complexity of school life.

The truth is that flirtation is often a component part of teaching methods — though no longer one that is tolerated, as many older teachers are finding. This kind of banter on the part of teachers is not ordinarily evidence of attraction, let alone intent. It is just a way of catching the attention of another bored classroom.

With the new law of consent in place, alongside the Children Act, the courts are encouraging pupils to take flirtation for abuse. By raising the stakes about relations between teachers and pupils, the law breaks down the trust that previously existed, and substitutes a presumption that teachers are potential sexual predators. The outcome of the new law on consent might be to eroticise student-teacher relations, not protect school pupils.

The author is a writer and researcher on children's rights.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
February 8: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by The Prince of Wales at the State Funeral of King Hussein of Jordan, which was held in Amman, Jordan.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Lady Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 8: The Princess Royal, Patricia, Basic Skills Agency, this evening attended the British Council International Reception at the Strand Palace Hotel, The Strand, London, WC2.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, patron, the Basic Skills Agency, will attend the British Council International Seminar at the Strand Palace Hotel, 37 The Strand, London, WC2, at 8.55pm, and will officially open Moorcroft School, Bramble Close, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, at 2.00pm. The Duke of Kent, president, EDEXCEL Foundation, will attend the EDEXCEL Student of the Year Awards at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, at 11.30.

Lord Lowry

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of The Right Hon. Lord Lowry will be held at the Temple Church, London, EC4, on Monday, March 22, at 5pm.

Birthdays today

Mr Norman Adams, painter and ceramic sculptor, 72; Mr Bernard Gallacher, golfer, 50; Mr George Guest, organist, 75; Mr John Hughes, 66; Mr Ben E. King, singer, 77; Mr Stanley Lyle, 46; Dr Donald Millican, former chairman, Scottish Power, 72; Dame Annabel Penhaligon, 53; Mr Hayden Phillips, civil servant, 56; Miss Amanda Rocco, opera singer, 33; Professor M.J.H. Siering, Chancellor, Brunel University, 53; Mr Gordon Strachan, football manager, 42; Miss Janet Suzman, actress, 60; Lord Williams of Elvel, 63.

Dinners

Ruskin Society
Viscount Norwich delivered a lecture to the Ruskin Society at the annual dinner held last night at the Reform Club to mark the 100th anniversary of John Ruskin's birth. Sir Richard Bony, MP, chairman of the society, presided. Professor Michael Wheeler also spoke.

London School of Jewish Studies
Professor Graham Zellick, Vice-Chancellor of London University, the Chief Rabbi and Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy were the guests of honour at a dinner held last night at Senate House, London University, to mark the degree ceremony and Rabbinic ordination of the London School of Jewish Studies, an associate institution of London University. Mr Chir M. Marks presided. Professor David Ruben, director of the school, also spoke.

The Athenaeum
Professor John Montgomery was the speaker at a talk dinner of the Athenaeum held last night in Pall Mall. Canon Michael Seward was in the chair.

Cardiff Business Club
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Mr C.N.D. Cole, and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Marion Drake, were present at a dinner held by the club at the Cardiff Hall, Cardiff last night. The guest speaker was the Secretary of State for Wales, the Right Hon. Alan Michael. Councillor Russell Goodway, Leader, Cardiff County Council, presided.

Luncheons

Mid-Atlantic Club
Ambassador Klaus-Peter Kläiber, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Nato, was the guest of honour and speaker at a Mid-Atlantic Club luncheon held yesterday at the English-Speaking Union, Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director of the Atlantic Council, was in the chair.

Rotary Club of London
The German Ambassador was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel, Mr John Buchanan, president, was in the chair.

Meeting
Royal Overseas League
Dr Rana Kabbani was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Group of the Royal Overseas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. The Hon. Lord Lucas presided.

Appointment

Mr Bill Sinton has been appointed Ambassador to Algeria, from September, in succession to Mr François Gordon who will be transferring to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.



Dame Judi Dench, patron of the Orange Prize for Screenwriting, with the three winners, Bernard Wright, Sara Sugarman and Clive Bradley, and Hans Snook of Orange. Dame Judi presented the award for the first time at The Ivy, London, yesterday. The prize, which was launched at the Cannes Film Festival last year, is aimed at new talent and is open only to those who have never had a feature film script produced into a film.

Royal Society of Chemistry

The following were admitted as Fellows of the Royal Society of Chemistry in January 1999. They are entitled to use the designation 'Chartered Chemist' and the letters CChem FRSC:

Graduating Officers of No 175 Initial Officer Training Course
General Duques Branch - Pilot Flying Officers P D Reeves BSc A Coe BSc P M Durban BSc D M Pynn BSc W Knight BSc B D Shepherd BSc J A Tipper MEng S M Williams BSc
Pilot Officers J D Baker A P Baron BSc M P Barrett BSc D Blackmore BSc J M Cockcroft BSc B D J Coogin BSc R W Hedderley MEng Jordan BSc CR Kid BSc P Krol BSc D C Landy MEng E A McCulloch BSc S P Oakley BSc O J Pengelly BSc A R Sennett BSc B J Spoor BSc A P Wans BSc A K Woodward BSc
Acting Pilot Officers A P Coxall RN MRAS A K Williams

General Duques - Navigator
Flying Officer H Bamford MA, Pilot Officer M J Grafton HND BEng E L Hale BA
Operations Support Branch - Air Traffic Control
Flying Officer S M Aldridge, Pilot Officers W Carney MA: H J Goodwin BSc PGCE S J Payton BSc A J Smith BSc J M J Davis, Acting Pilot Officer M J M Davis.

Operations Support Branch - Intelligence
Pilot Officers R L Dixon BA M S Lofis BA
Operations Support Branch - Flight Operations
Pilot Officer J C F Huxley BA, Acting Pilot Officer R J Gleeson.

Royal Air Force College Cranwell

Air Marshal I D Macfadyen was the Reviewing Officer at the Graduation of 89 officers of No 175 Initial Officer Training Course from Royal Air Force College Cranwell last Thursday.

Graduating Officers of No 175 Initial Officer Training Course
General Duques Branch - Pilot Flying Officers P D Reeves BSc A Coe BSc P M Durban BSc D M Pynn BSc W Knight BSc B D Shepherd BSc J A Tipper MEng S M Williams BSc
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Operations Support Branch - Air Traffic Control
Flying Officer S M Aldridge, Pilot Officers W Carney MA: H J Goodwin BSc PGCE S J Payton BSc A J Smith BSc J M J Davis, Acting Pilot Officer M J M Davis.

Operations Support Branch - Intelligence
Pilot Officers R L Dixon BA M S Lofis BA
Operations Support Branch - Flight Operations
Pilot Officer J C F Huxley BA, Acting Pilot Officer R J Gleeson.

Operations Support Branch - Regiment
Flying Officer S R J Morris BSc, Pilot Officer M G Smith BSc, Engineer
Flight Lieutenant P A Brooker BEng AMIEE C C T Chesley BEng SRAS S J Dyke BEng AMIEE A C Keeling BEng AMIEE J S Nash BEng AMIEE S M Taylor BEng G J Walker BEng AMIEE E D Williams BEng, Flying Officers A J Baker BEng AMIEE G P Bell D C S Black BEng T S Blackley BA MEng D J Johnston F M Leighton MSc BSc V Munro BEng BA M A Neasham BEng AMIEE D A Penker MEng, Pilot Officers A M Audus HNC J E Bertie MSc BEng M C Cook BEng M A Lane BEng J K V Ward BEng.

Supply
Flying Officer M Reed BSc MSc, Pilot Officers H M Gledhill BSc A L Shilcock BSc A Tose BA, Administrative Branch - Training
Flight Lieutenant D Chan BSc PGCE, Flying Officers M Dempster BA: S Hinton BA PGCE M A Scott-Jeffs BA PGCE, Pilot Officer J Phillips BSc PGCE.

Administrative Branch - Secretariat
Flying Officers S J O'Donnell BSc I A Patterson BA, Pilot Officers K L Dryden BA PGCE R W Edmond BA V L Hughes BSc, Acting Pilot Officers J M Hawthornthwaite P D Yates, Foreign and Commonwealth
Qatar Emir Air Force Pilot

Second Lieutenant M Al Hababi
H Al Naimi
Hungarian Air Force
Fighter Controller
Officer Caden A Nagy
Prizewinners of No 175 Initial Officer Training Course

The Sword of Merit, awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has demonstrated outstanding ability, leadership and other officer qualities and potential for further development. Student Officer A C Keeling BEng AMIEE.

The Hennessy Trophy and Philip Sassoon Memorial Prize, awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has proved to be the best all-round cadet, other than the Sword of Merit winner. Student Officer J S Nash BEng AMIEE.

The British Aircraft Corporation Trophy, awarded to the RAF or Foreign and Commonwealth cadet who has produced the best overall performance in leadership, officer qualities and professional studies on the course. Officer Cadet H Al Naimi QEAF.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.P. Baxter and Miss E.J. Jardine
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mrs Jane Baxter, of Saxmundham, Suffolk, and of Mr John Baxter, Suffolk, younger daughter of Mr Richard Jardine, of The Barbican, London, and Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Suffolk, and the late Mrs Janet Jardine.

Mr W.J.F. Carmichael and Miss A.L. Wait
The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Carmichael, of Sturges Farm, Neen Sollars, Worcester-shire, and Anna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wait, of Fendleton, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Captain T.S.B. Christie and Miss V.A.L. Monk
The engagement is announced between Captain Toby Christie, The Highlands, elder son of John and Stephanie Christie, of Blackhills, Elgin, and Vanessa, younger daughter of Robert Monk, of Twickenham, and Pamela Morris, of Hook Norton, Oxfordshire.

Mr L.J. Evans and Miss A.R. Lasse
The engagement is announced between Lee, only son of Mr and Mrs John Evans, of Peterlee, Durham, and Anna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Dieter Lasse, of Windsor, Berkshire.

Mr J.P. Cope and Miss S. George
The engagement is announced between Jason-Phillip, only son of the late Mr John Cope and of Mrs Cope, of Harrow-on-the-Hill, London, and Sally, only daughter of Mr Peter George, of Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Carol George, of Chelsea, London.

Mr J.E.H. Dykes and Miss M.H.E. Manley
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Bryan Dykes, of Dorset, Somerset, and Samantha, daughter of Richard Stuart-Hunt and the late Lindsay Stuart-Hunt, and stepdaughter of Mrs David Sebire, of Horton, South Gloucestershire.

Mr G.D. Tresidder and Miss N.J. Richardson
The marriage will take place today, at the Landmark Hotel, London, between Mr Gavin David Tresidder, only son of Mr and Mrs Brian Tresidder, and Miss Nicola Jayne Richardson, daughter of Mrs Richardson and the late Mr Barry Richardson.

Mr R.W.E. Ladds and Miss S.A. Stuart-Hunt
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Major and Mrs William Ladds, of Dorsland, Somerset, and Samantha, daughter of Richard Stuart-Hunt and the late Lindsay Stuart-Hunt, and stepdaughter of Mrs David Sebire, of Horton, South Gloucestershire.

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Church news

Appointments

The Rev Eric Robinson, NSM, Curate, Carlisle St Church, W St Mary (Carlisle), to be Curate, Kendal Holy Trinity (same diocese).

The Rev Nick Sharp, Curate, Oakwood St Thomas (London), to be Team Vicar, Farnborough The Good Shepherd (Guildford).

The Rev Gerard Storey, Anglican Pastor, Omagh, has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Guesney Holy Trinity (Winchester).

The Rev Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite, Vicar, Trumpington St Mary and St Michael (Ely), to be Precursor of Guildford Cathedral (Guildford).

The Rev Paul Tudge, Vicar, Woodside St James (Ripon), to be Vicar, Ilkley All Saints (Bradford).

The Rev Haydon Wilcox, Rector, Bilshorpe, Easington and Priest-in-Charge, Maplebeck and Winkburn (Guildford), to be Priest-in-Charge, Aldershot St Michael (same diocese).

Retirements & resignations
The Rev Paul Conder, Vicar, Blundellsands St Michael (Liverpool) to retire August 7. Prebendary Patrick Dearnley, Priest-in-Charge, Waterloo St John (Liverpool) to retire May 31.

The Rev Benjamin Sadasa, NSM, Priest-in-Charge, Dingleburgh W Langmere and Shimpling, Thelwell, W Farnham, and Rushall (Norwich) retired January 17.

The Rev Athol Thompson, Vicar, Shingreen St James and St Christopher (Sheffield) to retire April 4.

University news
Honorary degrees: Mrs Rachel Sullivan (Master of Arts), Professor Barry Supple, FBA, (Doctor of Letters).

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

BEST - Heather Elizabeth, 70, died peacefully on February 8, after a long illness. Always cheerful and kind. Buried at St. Mary's Church, London. Family flowers only. Private family cremation. Flowers, or donations to The Dementia Relief Trust, 40, St. Mary's Church, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 5DG. 01703 812564.

BIRTHS

CARTWRIGHT - On February 3 in London, to Joanna and Simon, a daughter, Alice Eleanor.

CARVER - On February 1st 1999, to Philip and Caroline, a son, Thomas Robert.

FORD - On January 28th, to Claire and David, a son, Joseph Asher. Thanks to the staff at The Jesop Hospital, Sheffield.

HOLT - On February 2nd 1999, to Lucy and William, a son, Alexander William. Thanks to the staff at The Jesop Hospital, Sheffield.

LEEMING - On February 7th 1999, to Emma and David, a daughter, Amelia Anne. Thanks to the staff at The Jesop Hospital, Sheffield.

MAUGHAN - On February 2nd 1999, to James and Patricia, a son, William Timothy. Thanks to the staff at The Jesop Hospital, Sheffield.

MORRISSEY - On Sunday, February 7th 1999, to Jo-Jo and Gregoire and Patrick, a son, William Timothy. Thanks to the staff at The Jesop Hospital, Sheffield.

SETH - On 22nd January, to David and Patricia, a son, Oliver George Finlay, a brother for James.

STONEHILL - On 4th February, to Felicity and Christopher, a daughter, Lydia Cressida, a sister for Edward and Rupert.

TAYLOR/LONGTON - On 14th December 1998, to Philip and Carrie, a beautiful daughter, Grace Florence.

WELLS - On January 27th to Diana and Ian, a son, Alexander Charles.

DEATHS

AYLMORE - Colonel (Retd) - Robert Henry (Bob) Aylmore late Royal Engineers, died at home on 14th February 1999 aged 68 years after a brave and courageous fight against cancer. Much loved husband of Gill, greatly loved father of Catherine, Helen and Jonathan, and grandfather to Charles, Harry, Oliver, Edward and Sophie. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Haulingfield on Friday February 12th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired payable to Imperial Cancer Research Campaign c/o F.W. Cook Funeral Service, 49 Church Street, Willingham, Cambridgeshire CB23 2SD. 01223 260325.

DEATHS

BEST - Heather Elizabeth, 70, died peacefully on February 8, after a long illness. Always cheerful and kind. Buried at St. Mary's Church, London. Family flowers only. Private family cremation. Flowers, or donations to The Dementia Relief Trust, 40, St. Mary's Church, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 5DG. 01703 812564.

BROADLEY - Margaret Elaine, aged 95, member of the Royal Victoria Hospital nursing staff 1923-58, peacefully after a short illness on February 8, 1999. Loved and loving son and great-grandson of many. Private family cremation. Flowers, or donations to c/o Keith C. Britton and Son, Funeral Directors, 10 High Street, Yarnon, North Somerset BS49 4JA. 01934 822115.

CREWE - Peacefully at home on February 8th, Thomas Crewe, aged 73 years. Husband of Linda, father of Rachel and Simon, father-in-law of Lisa and Tony and "Poppa" to his grandchildren. Funeral service at the Methodist Church, Loughton, Essex at 11.00am. Family flowers only. Donations to the Whitechapel Mission, London E1, c/o Warriners and Sons, 25 Church Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 1LA.

DAVENHILL - Rosemary, 82, died peacefully on February 8, 1999. Much loved twin sister of David, who died on February 15th. Funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Loughton, Essex at 11.00am. Family flowers only. Donations to the Whitechapel Mission, London E1, c/o Warriners and Sons, 25 Church Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 1LA.

BROWN - Penelope Jane, died peacefully at home surrounded by her family, David, Daniel, Justin and Jessica and close friends, on Wednesday February 3rd, 1999. Penny was a co-founder of the Bristol Cancer Help Centre and fought with courage for nearly 20 years. Everyone who met her will treasure the time and her family miss her terribly. She came to us to live out loud. A funeral service for family and close friends will be held at St. Mary's Church, Loughton, Essex on Wednesday 10th February at 11.30am. A memorial service will be held at St. Mary's Church, Loughton, Essex on March 3rd at 2.30pm. Anyone who knew Penny would know flowers are most definitely welcome. Please contact Fleurantion 011 967 0367.

BROOKE-DEAN - See Dean

BURNE - (Yugi) Alexander Gordon FIMBEE teacher, alumnus and Scottish country dancer died peacefully after a short illness on February 5th 1999 aged 78. Services to take place at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Monday 15th February. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired payable to The Woodland Trust or the Kent Air Ambulance. Enquiries to W. Hodges, 89 St John Hill, Sevenoaks, TN11 3PE. (01732) 454457.

DUNN - Mary Elsie Graham, eldest daughter of the late Duke and Duchess of Montrose. Died peacefully at home on February 5th 1999 aged 94 years. Beloved mother of the late James and of Simon Bosworth. Much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service at St. Ninian's, Troon at 12 noon on Thursday 11th February 1999. Burial in Troon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to the Alzheimer's Society or to St. Ninian's, Troon. RHT 6A2.

FLORIN - Ralfsie died at home on February 4th 1999 aged 31 after a brave fight against cancer. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Cancer Research Fund c/o Cancer Research Fund, 1011 BURN, 011 507 7041.

HAGS - Lt. Col. Anthony Eyro Gordon, on 5th February 1999 peacefully at The Barn House, Meritum, London. Beloved husband of the late Joanne and father of Michael. Meritum, London. Funeral service at St. Katherine's Church, Meritum, London on Tuesday, February 23rd at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Cancer Research Fund, 1011 BURN, 011 507 7041.

LUNT - Humphrey Guy, of Edgworth, Birmingham died on 16th February, 1999 aged 94 years. Beloved husband of Monica, and much loved father of Tim, Judy, Clare and Margaret. Grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service at St. Augustine's Church, Edgworth on Friday 12th February 1999 at 12.30pm. Family flowers only.

MASON - Charles Young, 69, died on 6th February 1999. Beloved husband of Angela, devoted father of Caroline, Guy and Hugh. Much loved father-in-law of Maria, Tracy and Anna. Adored grandfather of Alexandra, Laura and Serena. Private family cremation. Service of Thanksgiving on Friday 12th February at 2pm at All Saints Church, Poynton, Dorset. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research, c/o Essex Funeral Services, Newell, Sherborne, Tel. 01535 813473.

MEYRICK - John Edward, on 6th February 1999 in his 87th year, beloved husband of June, father of Victoria, Gerard and Diane. Dear friend of Doris. Funeral service at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Fawkham at 11.15am on Wednesday 10th February. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Cancer Research Fund, 1011 BURN, 011 507 7041.

DEATHS

CAREY - (Stedley) Angela on Saturday February 6th 1999, reluctantly but peacefully at home. Beloved wife of David, widow of David Stedley and very much loved mother of Fiona, Kirsty, Sarah and Andrew. Grandmother and great-grandmother and twin sister of Pat Allen. Private family funeral followed by a service at St. Mary's Church, Loughton, Essex on Saturday February 13th at 12 noon. Flowers or donations c/o Keith C. Britton and Son, Funeral Directors, 10 High Street, Yarnon, North Somerset BS49 4JA. 01934 822115.

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DEATHS

DUNSMITH - Lt. Col. Randal, 70, died on February 6th 1999, peacefully at home. Beloved husband of Margaret, father of Edward and Beatrice. Funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Loughton, Essex on Saturday February 13th at 12 noon. Flowers or donations c/o Keith C. Britton and Son, Funeral Directors, 10 High Street, Yarnon, North Somerset BS49 4JA. 01934 822115.

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OBITUARIES

IRIS MURDOCH

Dame Iris Murdoch, DBE, novelist and philosopher, died yesterday aged 79. She was born on July 15, 1919.

I had been his fate not to be interested in anything except everything," Iris Murdoch once wrote of one of her characters. In many ways this was her own fate, too. As a lecturer in philosophy and Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford, she shied away from the narrower analytical studies which interested such contemporaries as A. J. Ayer, and turned her attention instead to the expansive, though unfashionable, discipline of metaphysics. Lecturing and publishing in the field of moral philosophy, she engaged with the Post-Modernist Jacques Derrida and his flanking armies of deconstructionists, arguing that fact could not be separated from value. She sought to place moral inquiry back at the heart of philosophy, embarking with Casaubon-like fervour on her extensive study *Metaphysics as a Guide to Morals* (1992) which was greeted by some critics as a ramshackle collection of essays and by others as a grand philosophical synthesis.

As a novelist, Iris Murdoch was similarly broad in her outlook, taking the "dramas of the human heart" as her subject. Fiction, she said, was a "hall of reflection" which can encompass every form of tragedy and comedy. She used it to chart the progress of a metaphysical battle between evil and good, usually played out within the confines of a leisured upper-middle-class society. Distrusting the constricted focus of modern fiction, she created large casts of characters so that her novels, at their worst, spun like an emotional merry-go-round, while at their best they were persuasive and amusing commentaries on the contemporary world and the intricacies of human relationships.

She was energetically prolific, and her output seemed as much a show of stamina as of inspiration. Novels such as her 1978 Booker prizewinner *The Sea, the Sea*, or *Nuns and Soldiers* (1981), or *The Philosopher's Pupil* (1983) expanded to more than 500 pages, as she painstakingly knitted their protracted and typically mysterious plots, slowly chewing over unfashionably long descriptions and quasi-philosophical themes. Yet, although some critics suggested that adroit editorial excision would have increased the impact of her work, there were others who acclaimed her as the most accomplished novelist in postwar Britain.

Murdoch's personal beliefs were as expansive and accommodating as her fiction. She did not believe in a personal God, she said, which is why she found Buddhism especially appealing. But the religious dimension was essential to her and she bewailed the lack of faith in the modern world.

A woman of immense practical kindness, she was soft-spoken and courteous, with a warm open manner and a large capacity for sympathetic listening, which in many ways she preferred to talking. She seemed rarely to be bored by anything, taking advantage of every encounter to find out as much as possible. "There is never a moment," one of her friends once said, "when she would think it inappropriate to ask: 'Do you believe in God?'"

Murdoch was a familiar figure on the literary scene, youthfully pink-cheeked and with a softly enigmatic smile, dressed in her donnish clothes: woolly jerseys and tweed A-line skirts. Although there was a natural authority and decisiveness to her conversation, her language was oddly peppered with old-fashioned schoolgirl jargon: "Hello, old thing" and "cherio".

Jean Iris Murdoch was very much a product of her benign and cultivated background. She was born in Dublin at the end of the First World War, during which her father had served as a cavalry officer. But he was a bookish, intellectual man who, on demobilisation, joined the Civil Service. Her mother was also a cultured woman, who had trained as an opera singer before her early marriage. Iris was the only child, brought up as part of what she famously described as a "perfect trinity of love".

From the age of nine she was brought up in suburban London, but she always felt herself to be at least partly Irish, and throughout her childhood the family would spend their summer holidays there. She was educated at the Froebel Educational Institute in London, and, from the age of 13, at a vaguely progressive school, Badminton, where she was a contemporary of Indira Gandhi.

Iris Murdoch began writing at an early age, partly, she believed, as compensation for having no siblings to play with. "I'm the only child in search of the imaginary brother or sister. That is probably why I like to invent characters," she once said. Her first published work appeared in a school magazine in 1933. A comic poem about a girl with "bluebird eyes and a sense of vocation" whose chief interest is fishing for stars in the Milky Way, it shows the vein of humour mixed with the philosophical solemnity which was to characterise her work.

In 1938 Murdoch won the Harriet Needham Exhibition at Somerville College, Oxford, where she read Mods and Greats. There she found herself mixing with such stimulating figures as Raymond Williams, Philip Larkin, Edward Heath, Denis Healey and Roy Jenkins. Politically she was, at that time, on the far Left, and when Roy Jenkins wrote her a modest letter on some matter of party business, she penned him an impassioned reply, addressing him as "Comrade



Iris Murdoch at the creative peak of her career as a novelist, in the early 1970s

Jenkins". Her political preferences thereafter followed a well-trodden path. She moved to Gaiskellism in the 1950s, through the muddled attitudes of the Sixties, to moderate Conservatism in the 1970s and then to Thatcherism in the 1980s.

Graduating with a first in Greats, she left Oxford to work during the war years in the Treasury under the formidable Evelyn Sharp. From there she was seconded to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and was sent first to Belgium and then to Austria, where, in her job in a camp for displaced people, she proved most adaptable,

whether operating the switchboard or negotiating narrow roads behind the wheel of a heavy lorry.

In all this time she scarcely read a book, exhausted by the strenuous work. But passing through Brussels on the way out she had got what she described as a heady whiff of philosophy. She had met Sartre and, although previously she had considered archaeology or art history as her calling, she became fascinated by Existentialism. In Brussels she came across a bookshop owner who had pressed *L'Étre et le néant* into her hands. "It was wonderful," Murdoch said. "People were liberated by that book after the war, it

made people happy, it was like the Gospel. I'd been chained up for years, you were suddenly free and could be yourself."

On her return to England she decided that she wanted to return to academic life and applied for and won a scholarship to pursue her studies in the United States. But as a former member of the Communist Party — which she had briefly joined under the influence of a boyfriend, Frank Thompson, who was later killed in Bulgaria — she was refused a visa. The next year, 1947, she was awarded the Sarah Smithson Studentship in philosophy at Newnham College, Cambridge, and she studied there for a year before returning to Oxford as a tutor in philosophy and fellow of St Anne's. She was to hold this post for the next 15 years.

Her first book, *Sorrie, Romantic Rationalist* (1953), reflected her youthful passion for Existentialism, though intellectually she was always to remain at a distance from Sartre, and he was later to become the subject of some of her most acute criticism. She found his view of lonely, self-determining man quite inaccurate, and her collection of essays *The Sovereignty of Good* (1970) showed a widening of her work into a general attack on analytic philosophy.

Plato, however — about whom she wrote in *The Fire and the Sun* (1977) — was to remain her abiding interest, as she probed for a wider metaphysical system from which to answer the questions of philosophy.

However, as she was the first to admit — and her detractors were quick to point out — she was not a philosopher of true originality. "Unless one is a genius, philosophy is a mug's game," one of her fictional characters says. Only a genius, Murdoch maintained, could ever make a real contribution to the subject. At the age of 35 she turned her hand to writing novels.

In her first novel, *Under the Net* (1954) — which was actually her fourth, since she discarded two and another did not find a publisher — she harked back to Existential themes as she traced the journey of a posse of rootless individuals tramping round London in search of their identities. But unlike Sartre's, her novels were not simply the lumbering vehicles for philosophical ideas. "I might put in things about philosophy because I happen to know about philosophy," she said. "If I knew about sailing ships I would put in sailing ships."

Once she had begun to write, Murdoch scarcely seemed to pause, producing a new novel every year or so, with perhaps a break of half-an-hour between ending one and beginning the next. She began each with a period of "hard reflection" at the end of which every chapter would have been delineated and the characters moulded and given their names — usually

improbable ones. At the end of the process, hefty shopping bags of manuscript would be presented to her publishers, Chatto & Windus, where the boast was that never a word was changed. She professed herself impervious to reviews. "A bad review," she used to say, "is even less important than whether it is raining in Patagonia."

Those who reproached her with publishing too much were perhaps missing the point: her project was one of perfection, or imperfectibility even, as if the perfect — like the good, about which she meditated so deeply — was fundamentally beyond human achievement. If for her every novel was a fresh attempt to attain her ideal, she found each time that her ideal had moved on. She was always alert to the dangers of complacency. "I'm in the second league," she said, "not among the gods like Jane Austen and Henry James and Tolstoy."

Critics mostly felt that she was at the height of her powers in the 1960s and early 1970s, with works such as *A Severed Head* (1961), *The Iliad Girl* (1964), *A Fairly Honourable Defeat* (1970), *The Black Prince* (1973) and *The Sacred and Profane Love Machine* (1974). Several of these were made into plays and films. *The Severed Head*, for instance, ran for nearly three years at the Criterion Theatre, and was made into a film starring Richard Attenborough. In 1978 she also published a collection of poems, *A Year of Birds*.

She received many honours in her life. She was appointed CBE in 1976 and advanced to DBE in 1987. She was six times shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and won it in 1978 with *The Sea, the Sea*.

In 1950 Iris Murdoch married John Bayley, later Warton Professor of English Literature and a fellow of St Catherine's College, Oxford. He looked out of his college window one day, he said, and seeing her cycling by knew at once that he would marry her. Together they lived a life of cosy intellectual companionship, haphazard domestic arrangements and bizarre culinary creations. It was reported by friends who had them to stay early in their married life that when taking up a pot of tea in the morning, they found Iris sitting bolt up in bed with her nose in Wittgenstein, while her husband lounged at her side perusing *Woman's Own*. They were to remain constant companions throughout their long marriage, and together were familiar figures in the literary world, both dressed from their favourite "good as new" shop, John Bayley cared for her with devotion and tenderness throughout her final years when Alzheimer's disease took an increasingly tenacious grip upon her once fine mind. He charted the cruel progress of the illness in his poignant and unflinchingly honest memoir *Iris*, published last year.

He survives her. There were no children.

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ROBERT BARR

Robert Barr, BBC war correspondent and television writer and producer, died on January 30 aged 89. He was born on December 22, 1909.

GOOD observation of both facts and feelings, the ability to write fast to a formula, and a taste for action made Robert Barr first a noted war correspondent and then a successful BBC producer. Later he became a freelance writer and producer, working particularly on series about the police and espionage.

Robert Barr was born in Glasgow and left school at 15 to train as a chemist. Soon, however, he had found himself a reporter's job with the *Glasgow Herald*, and by 19 he was already Editor of the *Kilmarnock Herald*.

Work in London followed, on the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Mail*, where he was writing features when war broke out. He had also submitted some radio plays to the BBC, and in 1939 his contacts there landed him the job he hoped for, working with the chief war correspondent, Richard Dimbleby. Initially he reported on the convoys plying in the North Sea.

By 1944 he was well enough established to be one of four journalists given an attachment to General Eisenhower's personal staff in Portsmouth, reporting on the build-up to the invasion of Europe. The day after D-Day he crossed the Channel in a destroyer, landing on Juno Beach and gathering material there for



some time before returning to base. A fortnight later, he was back, near the French coast, with Churchill aboard *HMS Kelvin*, and he subsequently followed Eisenhower right up to his arrival in Paris in 1944.

After the war, Barr became a radio features producer, and after making a programme to advertise the delights of television, he moved into the new medium itself in 1946. He wrote the BBC's first-ever documentary, *Germany Under Control*, and the first full-length documentary, *Re-*

port on Germany. These were among the first of many, but Barr also liked to work in the hybrid form of the drama-documentary, and one such programme, *Medico* — about medical services for ships at sea — won one of three Italia Prizes for the BBC in 1959 (another of them being for Samuel Beckett's radio play *Embers*).

During the 1960s Barr had a part in the creation of one of the landmark series in British television, *Z Cars*, of which he was executive producer. Cre-

ated by Troy Kennedy Martin and Elwyn Jones, *Z Cars* portrayed police work in the fictitious Newtown not as the work of glamorous or leisured detectives, but as a tough job in a poor, working-class area. Within weeks it achieved viewing figures of 14 million — which meant that a quarter of the British population was watching — and the series ran for 667 episodes, right up to 1978.

In the meantime, in 1966, another series about detective work — *Softly Softly* — was spun off from *Z Cars*, by the expedient of promoting Detective Inspector Barlow (played by Stratford Johns) to Chief Inspector, and giving him a regional crime squad.

As well as scripts for these two series, Barr also wrote for *Moiret*. His work was sometimes criticised as mundane and lacking in real dramatic tension, but whether he was writing about a murder investigation or an outbreak of smallpox, it was always neatly constructed and conclusive.

Perhaps his best series was *Spectator* (1959), based on the memoirs of MI5's chief wartime interrogator, Colonel Oreste Pinto. Some of his television material was recycled in his novels *The Dork Island* and *The Edge of the Forest*. For Yorkshire Television he created a series about a local newspaper, *Gazette*, later better known as *Hodleigh*.

Robert Barr married Janet Cornell in 1936. She died in 1996, but he is survived by their daughter.

Emergency proclamation today to save power

By David Wood, Political Editor

Acting for the Queen, who left London for a visit to South-East Asia yesterday, a Council of State will proclaim a state of emergency today to ensure the maintenance of essential supplies and services for the duration of the miners' strike.

Linked with this government move was an initiative by Mr Carr, Secretary of State for Employment, to meet the miners' leaders today to explore again the possibilities for a settlement.

The decision to issue a royal proclamation and take sweeping emergency powers was reached at a meeting of the Cabinet emergency committee yesterday morning. The Prime Minister is understood to have informed the Queen.

Contrary to practice, the committee's decision to arm the Government with contingency powers was informally made known before the Privy Council

ON THIS DAY

February 9, 1972

The miners' strike — over pay — began on January 9, causing black-outs and a three-day week. On February 25 the miners voted 2-1 for a deal put forward by the Wilberforce inquiry.

could meet today. The explanation is that the Government had in go into a Commons debate yesterday on an opposition motion condemning the Government's handling of the strike, and senior ministers felt the only frank course was to announce their intention. Otherwise, Mr Wilson and the Opposition would have had a genuine grievance.

It had been clear since the Cabinet emergency committee met last Thursday that a move towards an emergency

would be made this week. The Government did not want to seem to be acting provocatively, but there were warnings that had to be heeded from the power industries that stocks of coal were falling. Senior ministers could not delay in protecting essential services and supplies. Nevertheless, the sweeping powers taken under a royal proclamation will be sensitive and sparingly used.

There is no present intention, for instance, of bringing in the Armed Forces to maintain essential services, although the emergency regulations will provide that power. For the present, the Government will be content to control floodlighting and display lighting and other uses of power not regarded as essential.

Beyond that, Mr Davies, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will be mainly responsible for bringing forward orders that prove to be necessary if the miners' strike is prolonged. The Privy Council will today tender advice to the Council of State, acting for the Queen. The proclamation will then be made, and Mr Maudling, Home Secretary, will report it to the Commons.

Rodney Hobson on progress in matching Britain's investors and entrepreneurs

UK network for funding angels takes wing today

A NON-PROFITMAKING organisation that aims to double the business angels sector over the next five years is launched today.

It is backed by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Corporation of London, five big banks and leading firms of accountants and solicitors.

National Business Angels Network (NABN) is taking over the existing network of 850 registered investors and 200 investment opportunities on the books of the Local Investment Networking Company. NABN is also integrating its own angels introductory service into the new organisation. Other UK business angels networks will be invited to discuss how to expand the sector.

Robert Drummond, a former venture capitalist who is chief executive of NABN, says: "It is my belief that the activity of business angels in the UK has been held back by fragmentation and a lack of understanding, so we want to make the process simple and low-cost. I see no reason why we should not raise the number of business angels in the UK to the level of that in the US where there are two and a half times as many per head of population."

Michael Snyder, senior partner in Kingston Smith, the accountancy firm, and NABN chairman, says: "Our role will be to create an open environment in which the movement can flourish, and an increasing number of business angels and the growth companies that need them can be brought together. "As a non-profitmaking organisation, we are non-partisan. It is not our intention to compete with other business angels organisations but to act as a catalyst and a clearing house, bringing investors and companies together through a simple-to-use introduction service and leaving others to advise on the comple-

tion of the deals. We aim to provide a single point of entry through which all potential investors and companies seeking funds can plug into the business angels infrastructure throughout the country."

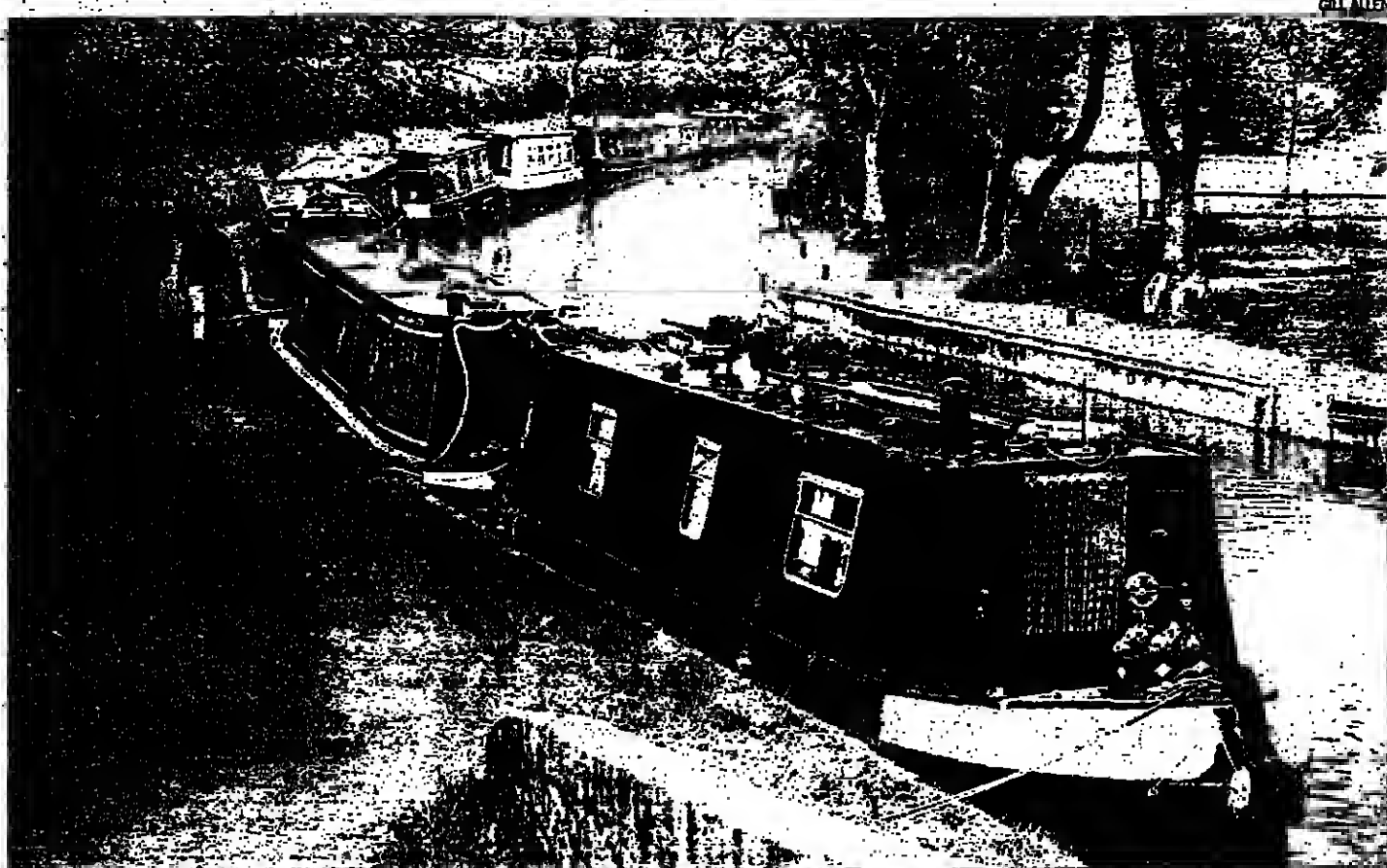
Apart from NatWest, the bank sponsors are Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds TSB and the Royal Bank of Scotland. Reynolds Porter Chamberlain, solicitors, and Kingston Smith are also giving their support.

Business angels are wealthy individuals willing to invest in growing firms. They are often self-made, with entrepreneurial backgrounds, and are usually over 45. Only 1 per cent are female. Usually they will invest between £10,000 and £50,000 and they are likely to want some say in the company they are backing. More than one angel may back a particular investment and it is estimated that a third of deals involve a total of more than £100,000. Angels tend to avoid the spotlight, so estimates of the size of the market are mainly guesswork. There could be about 18,000 angels actively seeking investments and ready to put up to £500 million a year in about 3,500 businesses.

They are a crucial source of funding for start-ups and growing companies that are too small to attract funds from venture capitalists. Angels and businesses seeking equity finance will join the new network by filling in a simple application form. The annual fee is £100 plus VAT for businesses and £85 plus VAT for angels. Businesses that are accepted will be put on the network website and be included in a publication for six months.

NABN is at 40-42 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6JJ. Its information pack hotline is 0171-329 4141.

WEBSITE: www.nationalbusinessangels.co.uk



The canal leisure market is expanding rapidly with between 1,500 and 2,000 new boats registered with British Waterways every year

Backer helps push the boats out

THE fifth company to benefit from the Welsh Development Agency's Xenos scheme is Fibreline Boats, of Brynmawr, South Wales. A business angel put in £75,000.

Fibreline makes narrow boats for the growing canal leisure market. They look like traditional narrow boats, but are made of glass-reinforced plastic, which has for years been the most popular material

for yachts. Weighing less than eight tonnes, the boats will be lighter, stronger, easier to handle and easier to repair than conventional steelplate vessels. Their propulsion system has been designed to do less harm to canal banks and the lighter boats use less fuel and cause less damage in a collision.

With backing from Lloyds TSB and Blaenau Gwent County Bor-

ough Council, Fibreline produced prototype and pre-production models at its factory on the Barleyfield Industrial Estate at Brynmawr. Interior fittings included kitchens, bedrooms, shower rooms and lounges.

A presentation to a group of potential investors at Swansea brought financial backing from David Bibby, a businessman

based at Bridgend. Production of the 45ft-long boats will start soon and Fibreline expects to employ 20 people when it is fully operational. The company is aiming its products at a market that is likely to expand significantly as more canals are restored and made navigable again. There are 3,000 miles of navigable waterway in Britain, with the potential of a further 2,200 miles becoming available.

It is estimated that between 1,500 and 2,000 new canal boats are registered with British Waterways every year.

Victor Parkin, Fibreline's chairman, said: "The market has changed considerably over the past ten years. As well as the die-hard traditionalists who would only contemplate a steel boat, there are a growing number of people who want glass-reinforced fibre ones. In the past, technical difficulties have limited the length of boats to under 32ft, but there are now a lot of canal users who want a longer leisure craft with its increased facilities."

Welsh Xenos scheme gets £20m

THE Welsh Development Agency has recruited 70 business angels with £20 million to invest to support its Xenos scheme.

The WDA is now working to link them with a database of 120 companies seeking investment. Four deals worth a total of nearly £500,000 have already been completed.

Xenos — Greek for stranger — was launched in Cardiff in September 1997 as a partnership between the WDA, the Welsh Office, Business Connect (the Welsh equivalent

of Business Links) and CBI Wales, with support from the European Regional Development Fund.

The small business sector is seen as particularly important to the Welsh economy. Despite regeneration over the past ten years, Wales still has a gross domestic product that is 17 per cent below the UK average, low wage levels and low average household income.

A report by CBI Wales showed a reluctance by large investors to lend relatively small sums to firms

with no track record. Xenos aims to plug the equity gap by funding ventures requiring up to £200,000.

The Xenos network manager is Ray Hurcombe, a chartered certified accountant and formerly an investment manager for a small investor in South Wales. He is also a former director of Innovation Wales and Rhondda Development Agency.

A network of Xenos co-ordinators is based at Bangor, Newtown, Carmarthen and Cardiff.

Program lets small firms fight 2000 bug

BY MANUS COSTELLO

A COMPUTER software program to help small firms to see whether their computers will crash at the start of 2000 has been developed by an international company based at Fareham, Hampshire. The program was initially used by big corporations, such as Glaxo Wellcome.

The Check 2000 Small Business Edition launched by Greenwich Mean Time will locate any problems in the five layers of a computer system and show a user how to fix them. Users put the disk in the PC, and instructions will take them through levels with a problem. The small business version costs £29.95.

Action 2000, the government advisory body, spoke to more than 3,000 businesses and found that, at the end of last year, more than half of firms with between 10 and 250 staff and 76 per cent of those with fewer than ten workers had taken no action on the millennium bug.

Karl Felder, GMT chief executive and an adviser to the Government on PC millennium bug issues, says the findings were worrying. "Our research showed that of 4,000 commonly used PC software programs, more than 64 per cent had the potential, during normal usage and operation, to be adversely affected by dates at the end of this century and into the next," he said.

Action 2000 is to list bug-busting products on its website later this year; it already offers a guide to how software may be affected.

Action 2000's action line is 0845-601 2000. GMT is on 01243 757468.

LINKS

ACTION 2000 WEBSITE: www.bug2000.co.uk



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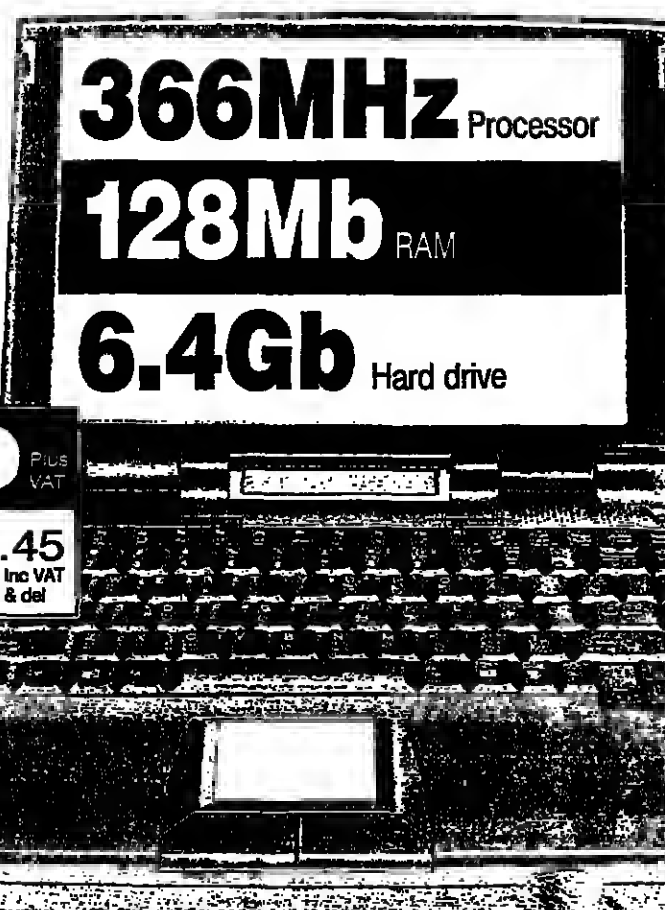
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Number two: Dean Burton leaps high to score the winning goal for Derby against Everton at Pride Park on Sunday. Photograph by Shaun Botterill, Allsport

£1,000 bonanza in store for next weekly winner

Next weekend, the fifth round of the AXA-sponsored FA Cup takes precedence over FA Carling Premiership fixtures, so, with only three games scheduled to be played affecting the *Times* Fantasy League lists (last night's Charlton v Wimbledon game, and next Saturday's Charlton-Liverpool and West Ham-Nottingham Forest matches), there will be no award of a £500 weekly prize for the period February 8-15.

The player lists will, however, be updated to include points earned and lost by players taking part in those three games, and the prize money will be "rolled over", so that the weekly winner announced on these pages in a fortnight will receive a double prize of £1,000 plus £100 worth of Puma sports equipment.

Today we publish two more ON-Target numbers. Check your team total against the player lists (right). If the total matches either of the ON-Target numbers (7 or 14), follow the instructions to find out if you have won the £500 prize. Even if your team total is some way short of the 37 scored by our winner this week, you could still equal his winnings.

Next week, we will publish the name of the winner of this week's ON-Target competition. There will not, however, be any new ON-Target numbers. Instead, as in the case of the weekly prize for the top team, the week's ON-Target prize money will be "rolled over", so that the winner the following week will receive a double prize of £1,000.

Scoring of minus seven each for

Beasant and Jon Olav Hjelde were as hard as things are likely to get in one single match, but the state of the Forest side in general does not bode well for the remainder of a difficult season. Although Alan Rogers saved some of his reputation (and three points) with a goal — and that, don't forget, was the equaliser — it cannot disguise the deficiencies in Ron Atkinson's back division. Indeed, the score in the game could have been more than 8-1; some estimated that 14-4 would have been a fairer reflection of play. That may give some consolation to any Fantasy League entrant with Steve Stone, Jean-Claude Darchville or even Pierre Van Hooijdonk in their selections, but it may be that

Manchester United had largely stopped bothering about marking, preferring the view that attack was, as it proved, by far the best form of defence. Beasant's season score now stands at minus 21, with Hjelde only four better off. Steve Cherrie, who, mercifully, missed Saturday's drubbing, has a score of minus 11, level with Sasa Illic, the only player in the Fantasy League lists from a team other than Forest to have reached double minus figures. For the price of a Dave Beasant, you could sign Pavel Smicok of Sheffield Wednesday (nine points) and have something left over, while trading Hjelde in would bring in enough to buy you Jacob Laursen (13 points) or Dave Watson (15).

As I was saying

With France, the world champions, in town tomorrow to play England, I was fantasising about an all-French Fantasy League team.

Interesting, but difficult after all, most of the French players in the Premiership play for two clubs, and you can only pick one player from Arsenal and one from Chelsea.

That's right, of course, and old Guivarch has gone to Glasgow.

Oh yes, I was forgetting him. But of course he's a forward, and France won the World Cup without using any of them.

Well, what about French-speaking, then?

That'll give me the pick of Belgians and Francophone Swiss.

Stephane Hencho of Blackburn, and that's about it, as far as I can see. In that case, what about Cameroonians and Moroccans?

That'll give us Rigobert Song of Liverpool, the lad Foe at West Ham, and Hassan Kachoulou down at Southampton.

Still not enough for a team. What about a World Cup memorial XI?

Yes, then you could have Solskjaer in. He played for Norway, didn't he?

Yes, but you might want a Manchester United player from another country.

Which is odd, because I always thought that, with a name like Gunnar, he'd be a natural to play for Arsenal.

But Ricky Villa never played in Birmingham, and I don't notice Big Ron signing Craig Forrest.

And Trevor Cherry never played for Bournemouth. Point taken. Anyway, my Arsenal player will be David Seaman — the last of the great English goalkeepers. We used to have so many, and now all the Premiership clubs have European goalkeepers.

Isn't England in Europe, then?

You know what I mean. And I think I'll have Slaven Bilic. He's not even an Everton regular, is he?

Yes, but if not for his ridiculous piece of play-acting that got Blanc sent off in the semi-final, Frank Leboeuf would never have played against Brazil.

In that case, you might as well pick "a mystery ailment".

The mystery ailment that struck down Ronaldo the night before the final.

Otherwise, Leboeuf would have been marking the real McCoy. And then we wouldn't have had to listen to all these French players going on and on about how they won the World Cup in the first place.

What ever happened to the good old English goalie?



CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).

GOALKEEPERS

102	R. Smeets	ARS	3	25	3.7
103	A. Henschel	ARS	3	15	3.4
104	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
105	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
106	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
107	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
108	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
109	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
110	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
111	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
112	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
113	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
114	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
115	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
116	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
117	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
118	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
119	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
120	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2

FULL BACKS

203	R. Smeets	ARS	3	25	3.7
204	A. Henschel	ARS	3	15	3.4
205	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
206	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
207	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
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295	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
296	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
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298	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
299	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
300	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2

CENTRE BACKS

305	R. Smeets	ARS	3	25	3.7
306	A. Henschel	ARS	3	15	3.4
307	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
308	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
309	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
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334	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
335	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
336	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
337	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
338	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
339	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
340	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
341	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
342	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
343	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
344	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
345	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
346	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
347	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
348	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
349	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
350	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
351	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
352	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
353	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
354	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
355	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
356	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
357	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
358	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
359	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
360	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
361	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
362	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
363	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
364	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
365	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
366	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
367	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
368	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
369	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
370	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
371	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
372	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
373	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
374	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
375	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
376	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
377	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
378	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
379	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
380	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
381	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
382	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
383	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
384	M. Schuster	AST	3	12	3.2
HEADFOLDERS					
405	E. Pulli	ARS	0	5	2.0
406	N. Overyman	ARS	0	2	0.5
407	M. Schuster	AST	0	1	0.2
408	P. Veltus	ARS	0	1	0.2
409	U. Langendoen	ARS	0	1	0.2
423	S. Nussli	ARS	0	1	0.2
424	M. Dreyer	ARS	0	1	0.2
429	K. Gruber	AST	0	1	0.2

Glory of Solskjaer's late quartet

The weekly £500 prize-winner did not even need Ole Gunnar's 12 points over the weekend — but his team-mate helped out.

The headlines were predictable, and the headline-writers did not disappoint. There they all were: *Gunnar's a Stunner*. *Top Gunnar*, and, least unexpected of all, *Ole, Ole, Ole* — culturally confusing where a Norwegian is concerned, maybe, but each "Ole" saluting one of the four goals scored by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer against Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

His contribution during only 20 minutes on the pitch rewrote the definition of the term "super-sub", but before Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, elected to bring the Norwegian international onto the field at the City Ground, Dwight Yorke, the man he replaced, was on course to be the Times Fantasy League's top points-scorer of the week, thanks to his brace against Forest and his winner against Derby County in midweek. But four goals, worth 12 points, in little over ten minutes, put Solskjaer on top.

Admittedly, the goals were scored against a tiring and punch-drunk Forest defence, surely one of the feeblest rearguards ever to have appeared in the Premiership, and at least two of them hardly stretched the capacities of the league's most prolific substitute. But they all count in Fantasy League as in the real world.

Solskjaer's 32 goals in 42 matches for Molde attracted the attention of Ferguson, who signed a player who immediately caused as much consternation for commentators as defenders, especially when Barry Davies of the BBC came up with the idiosyncratic but, he claims, authentic, "Sol-shirer" pronunciation that he alone seems to favour.

The other appellation that has stuck is "The baby-faced assassin", although whether you would really want to see that squinting at you out of a pram is debatable.

Nevertheless, 15 goals in a season when he has started only six games is largely unanswerable.

Even so, it was Yorke's contribution that won the £500 weekly prize for Anthony Simpson, of Shanklin, Isle Of Wight. His team, Raffles' Gems (named after his dog) benefited from a total of 17 points from Yorke and Paul Scholes, two players from one of two teams Mr Simpson supports — the other being bottom-of-the-league Scarborough, from where he moved to the island some 20 years ago. As he said, "You couldn't get two leavers further apart in league position."

News of the win was as a pleasant surprise to Mr Simpson, a chef, whose recipe for success has been short of an ingredient or two at times, although this week's matches



Raffles' Gems	
I Walker (TOT)	3
R Nilsson (COV)	3
G Le Saux (CHE)	3
N Waddock (SOU)	0
D Watson (EVE)	0
D Hamman (NEW)	0
P Ince (LIV)	3
P Scholes (MAN)	6
M Overmars (ARS)	6
D Yorke (AST)	11
P Wanchoppe (DER)	4
Total points 57	

have proved that it had the potential to be a tasty combination.

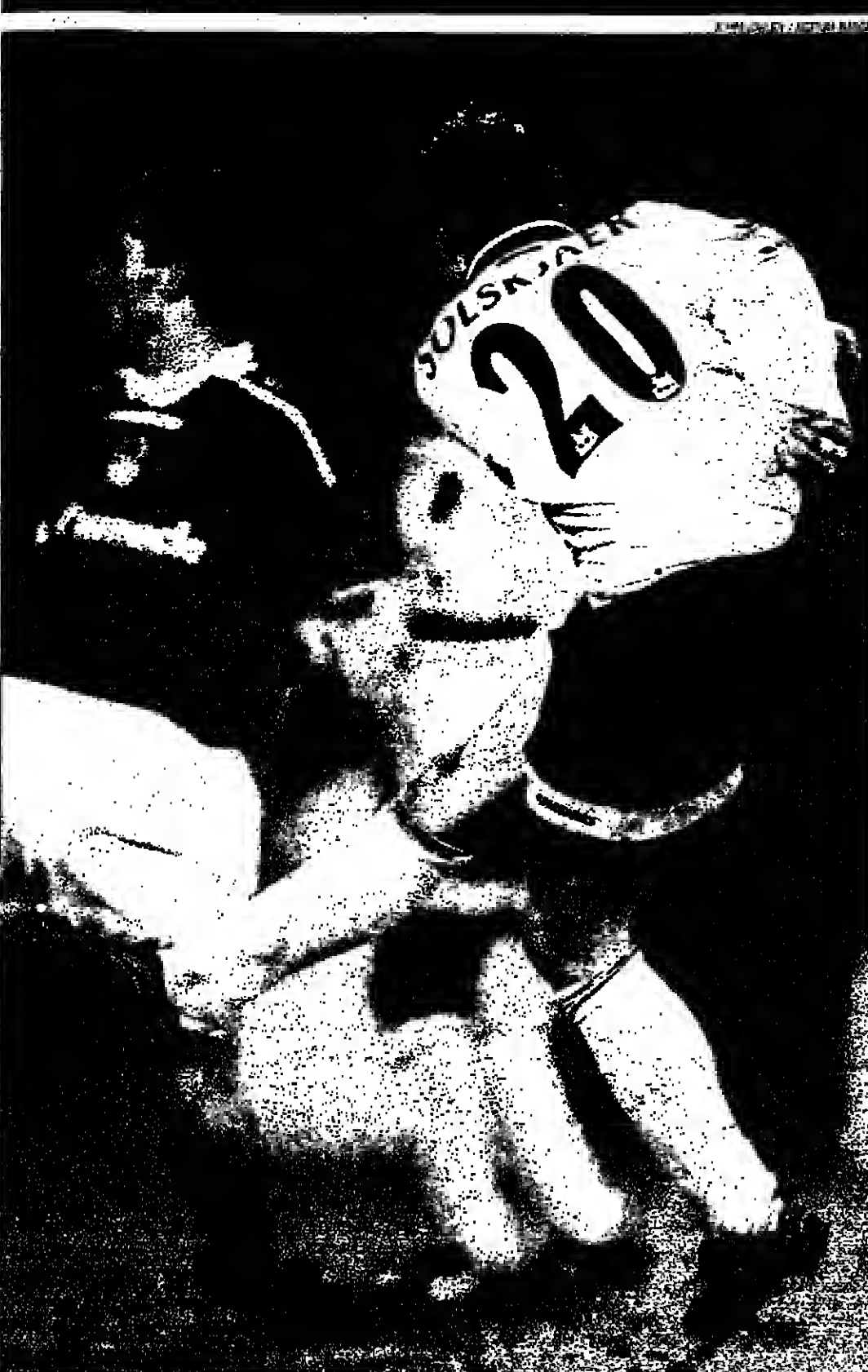
"Scholes, I thought, would be a regular after the way he played last season, but it hasn't worked out that way. Wanchoppe is always likely to score a few goals, but he's been injured." Wanchoppe did not manage a goal, but was credited with assists for both of Dean Burton's goals against Everton on Sunday.

The choice of Yorke was a simple one, especially when transfer talk linked the player with Old Trafford while the team was being selected, but even players who might have been regarded as liabilities at one time proved their worth last week.

Ian Walker, who has reclaimed his place at Tottenham, came up with a clean sheet to earn three more valuable points. "They (Tottenham) haven't had a real first-choice goalkeeper, so I thought he'd have a chance," Mr Simpson said. The restriction on the number of players per club that can be selected is an inconvenience to some, but Mr Simpson saw it as a challenge. "I like the idea," he said. "It makes it harder, but it gives you more to do." Dwight Yorke going to United helped...

NICK SZCZEPANIK

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Ole, ole... OK, OK, you've had enough of the Ole Gunnar Solskjaer headlines, and Nottingham Forest will certainly have had enough of him. Just as well: after his four goals at the City Ground on Saturday, the chances of his visiting in a league game next season have become even more remote.

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

1	Phil Clarke	Sheff Wed	253
2	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	257
3	James Kerr	Senous Squad	282
4	Mark Cales	Joe Public	280
5	Gordon Gushkiy	Super Saddlers B	276
6	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	276
7	Richard Deane	On The Vagabond	276
8	John White	Fusegear	276
9	Peter Leadbeter	Sole Team	276
10	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	274
11	David Mead	In The City	274
12	John Humphreys	Academicals	273
13	Tim Garside	Hatchers Who?	271
14	Jennifer Cockburn	Yeah Right	270
15	John Luffhams	Sold At The Bar	270
16	Phil Tinker	Pin-Ups 7	269
17	David Wise	Tilly FC	268
18	Mike Truran	Walton Reserves	268
19	Michael Matytschuk	Tigger United	268
20	David Young	Banditos Darsene	267
21	David Edmondson	Doe 10	266
22	Lucy Crosthwaite	Edmo Utd Mingle	266
23	Mike Shipley	I Hate Football	266
24	Angela Whitfield	Minor Threat	266
25	Andrew James Spencer	Wesscountry W65	266
26	Mike Shipley	The Ones Mine	265
27	Andy Jackson	Minor Threat 16	265
28	Mark Gayler	Caroline B	265
29	I. Samuels	Third Time Lucky	264
30	Leonard Mars	Spartak Moscow	264
31	Mike Shipley	The Jazz	263
32	Mark Threlkeld	Mus Threlkeld	263
33	Phil Tinker	Peter 7	263
34	Prithvi Chakla	Willsons Eleven	262
35	David Plett	The Baggage Boys	262
36	Brian Payne	Cosmopolitan 16	261
37	Peter Cofman	Just A Bobs Team	261
38	John Miller	Melodymaker	261
39	Alan Parry	As Bandits	261
40	Tom Lee	The Bears FC	260
41	Tony Fisher	Real Dataran	260
42	Juniant Popat	Popat's Army	260
43	Michael Scuff	Top Class	260
44	Nigel Byrne	Nights Team	260
45	Kevin Styles	Olanawonoph	259
46	Stephen Hayes	Special Brew	259
47	Rubin Harrington	Chequers Champs	259
48	C Sharpe	Sunfish Stars	259
49	Jon Stiles	Inn City 442	259
50	Stephen Trigg	Winners	259
51	Glen Reynolds	Wb 20	259
52	Terry Bullen	El Ter's Revenge	258
53	Stephen Hayes	Artful Mob FC	258
54	David Daley	The Lark XI	258
55	Alan Featherstone	Larkspireteam	258
56	John Miller	Milton United	258
57	Henry Grogan	Top Class Repeat	258
58	Darren Sawyer	Finchleystars	258
59	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	258
60	Scott Bratt	Scots Stars	258
61	Paul O'Neill	Four Four Two	258
62	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	258
63	Nigel Koth	Kalbs Kings B	258
64	Ron Allgar	Cybernet	257
65	Andrew Karam	Super Snipers FC	257
66	Simon Gray	The Walker	257
67	David Swithbank	Titus All Stars	257
68	Mike Lawson	Throw In Muscs	257
69	Serain Jones	Porty Bumburds	257
70	George Millington	Sunwors 6	257
71	Dominic Quibell	Doris Demons	257
72	B. O'Boys	Q B O'Boys	256
73	Joseph Bartley	Joren United	256
74	Philip Morton	Skull Vans	256
75	Chris Wallis	Wallys Wonders 2	256
76	The Taming Cow	The Future's Red	256
77	Nick Waterman	Waterman3	256
78	Nail Bradbrook	Chapeltown One	256
79	John Green	Chicken Chasers	255
80	Mark Scott	Cross Of SG	255
81	Harry Birk	Who Needs Hayes?	255
82	Paul Nathan	Nathan Hotspur	255
83	Seamus Dwyer	Seamus Dwyer	255
84	Charles Duncan	Alans Strides	255
85	E Kelly	Masie F C	255
86	Peter Donnelly	Goals R Us	255
87	Sachin Tuesday	Sachin Tuesday	255
88	Robert Harding	Wishful Thinking	255
89	Rafly Kothari	Millenniumbuggers	255
90	Chris Coles	Inter Radichio	254
91	Phil Tinker	Pin-Ups	254
92	D B Fisher	Taking Candy	254
93	E Sonekita	Getto Nero	254
94	Francis Murphy	Francis Di Milano	254
95	Steve Ouse	Lokomotiv No 80	254
96	William Rose	Emmes Field	253
97	Trevor Denton	Chelstov 1	253
98	Colin Head	Headston Gunns	253
99	Paul Woolman	Old Brightonians	253
100	Andrew Mottershead	Mortys Marvels	253

Plus ten others on 253 points

£1,000 richer for having the team's points spot on target

People are signing up new teams for ON-Target, where you match your points with the given score to have a chance to win a prize

Congratulations to Nick Patch of Grays in Essex, the main winner of ON-Target this week, who finds himself £1,000 richer thanks to last week's rollover. Fourteen other managers have also managed to win themselves excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. The Times has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned FIFA 99 game. Every week you have the chance to win:

■ 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
■ 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
■ 10 additional runners up: FIFA 99 CD-Rom.
Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA 99 for the PlayStation; FIFA 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag.
If YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes. The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week. Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on:

0670 901 4270

THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE

Has your team scored...

7 or 14

points?

Check your total, then ring

0870 901 4270

(ex UK +44 870 901 4270)

Calls charged at national rates



If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.

HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the hotline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on **0870 901 4270** (calls charged at national rate).

should last about a minute. Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning. If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won. Managers with the correct points who have not called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Winners
This week's winners are: Nick Patch of Grays (£1,000 plus EA Sports Pack); Edward Andrews of Purley, Gareth Robinson of Wexham, Gordon Bruce of Livingston and Joanaa Givens of Salisbury (EA Sports Packs); John Fure of Port Sunlight; Alison Greaves of Glossop; Miles Pearson of Colchester; Edward Horner of Camickdurgus; Austin Ennes of Market Harborough; Ede. Pritchard of Shrewsbury; Nick Arnold of Dole; Julie Worsley of Eastwood; David Varley of Oley and Marlene Greenwood of Harrogate (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).



FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ



Every week, we test your football knowledge with our Fantasy Quiz. Last Tuesday we featured four Premier League players with presents to unwrap: Tim Flowers (Blackburn), Steve Harper (Newcastle), Darren Peacock (Blackburn) and Mart Poom (Derby) all celebrated birthdays on February 3.

What do these four hot Fantasy League properties have in common? The answer will appear in a fortnight.



CHECK YOUR SCORES TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE TOP TEN

1	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	276
2	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	274
3	Juniant Popat	Popat's Army	260
4	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	258
5	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	258
6	David Swithbank	Titus All Stars	257
7	Daisy Martin	Sachin Tuesdays	255
8	Robert Harding	Wishful Thinking	255
9	Craig Macaskill	No name	253
10	John Young	Notamname	253



Marc Overmars: features in this week's winning team

Not dropped, only resting...

PERHAPS the most nerve-racking moment of the weekend for a manager in The Times Fantasy League comes just before the kick-off, in the form of team news. Knowing that you're down to ten men even before a ball is kicked because your star midfielder has been "rested" does nothing for the morale of the team. Managers owning the likes of Beckham and Scholes will have heard this dreaded word several times over the past few weeks. It seems that being two of the top Fantasy League midfielders still does not guarantee you a starting place in Alex Ferguson's midfield. In fact, Scholes has started only 15 games so far, but even so finds himself top of the heap in terms of Fantasy League points scored. Similarly, super-sub

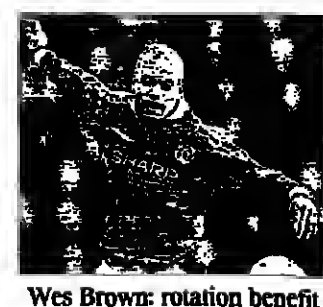
Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has started just six Premiership games, but has accumulated 30 Fantasy League points — currently the tenth highest tally for a striker in the competition and even more than Dennis Bergkamp. Alex Ferguson has promised the Norwegian more starts in future, but managers with Yorke and Cole should not worry too much about their

men making way. Next weekend's FA Cup match with Fulham will provide an excellent opportunity to parade the youngster before the Cole-Yorke partnership resumes for business as usual in the Premiership crunch match with reigning champions Arsenal a week tomorrow.

Manchester United defenders have also been victims of a rotational policy, with Gary Neville, Ronnie Johnsen and Denis Irwin all having stints on the sidelines to let Wes Brown, Henning Berg and Phil Neville have a run out. In fact, Chelsea's rotational strategy has been put in the shade by comparison. In contrast, Arsenal's first-choice XI can be agreed on by all and sundry, thus ensuring that Fantasy League managers

know exactly where they stand. As European fixtures and the latter stages of domestic cup competitions loom on the horizon, you can be sure that the respective rotational strategies among the major Premiership contenders will continue, causing yet more infuriation to Fantasy League managers all over the nation.

MATT SIMS



Wes Brown: rotation benefit

051 79 11 41

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9 1999

Factory prices increase pressure for further cuts in interest rate

No respite for manufacturing

By SAIED SHAH

MANUFACTURING output crashed in December, with factory gate prices falling for the first time, confirming that the sector is mired in recession and piling on the pressure for further interest rate cuts in the coming months.

In December manufacturing output, which excludes oil and utilities, fell by 0.6 per cent compared with the previous month, far more than the 0.2 per cent expected by the City. It was the fifth successive

fall in manufacturing and the worst run since the 13 months of successive falls that ended in January 1981.

Caroline Gorman, of 4Cast, the economic consultancy, said: "It really underlines the fact that manufacturing was up the creek without a paddle in December."

In the last quarter of 1998 manufacturing output was down 1.3 per cent from the previous three months and 0.6 per cent down on the fourth quarter of 1997.

A revised figure was also released yesterday for the prices

of goods leaving factory gates in December, which showed a 0.1 per cent fall from a year earlier, the first annual drop since records began in 1958.

Douglas McWilliams, of the Centre for Economics and Business Research, said industry was severely hit by overstocking at the end of last year. Professor McWilliams said that growth would continue to be affected by overstocking in 1999 and this would shave 1 per cent off GDP this year. He predicts GDP growth of just 0.3 per cent this year, with interest rates falling to 4 per

cent by the end of 1999. "There is no sign of inflation," he said, adding that he expected this view to be reinforced by the Bank of England's Inflation Report, which is due tomorrow.

The last two quarters of contracting manufacturing output in 1998 mean that, for the first time, the sector can be said to be technically in recession. Richard Iley, an economist at ABN Amro, said that although there would be further monthly drops to come, he expected a recovery in the second half of this year as the

boost from interest rate cuts feeds into the economy and stocks are run down.

Sales figures released by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) today show that the total value of sales in shops jumped 5 per cent in January, compared with last year.

This was a steep rise from an average of 2.3 per cent sales growth in the previous three months, as heavy discounting in January enticed people back to the shops.

However, the BRC gave warning that it is too early to say the retail sector has turned

the corner. Pamela Webber, an economist at the BRC, said: "Retailers are worried that once the sales posters come down from their windows, the shoppers will disappear. It may be that January's figures were just due to bargain hunters, and that clearly is not sustainable."

The weak economic outlook for Europe saw the euro take another knock yesterday, falling to its lowest level yet against the dollar, dropping to \$1.1219 from \$1.1292 at the close on Friday. Against sterling, the euro was little

changed, gaining 0.01p to close at 68.89p.

Robert Lynch, currency strategist at Paribas in New York, said that the attraction of the euro had faded over the past month-and-a-half as expectations of euroland growth now look misplaced in the face of high unemployment, low inflation and highly regulated labour markets.

By contrast, he said, all predictions of a slowdown in US growth have been confounded by the "amazing strength" of the economy, which has been powered by productivity gains.

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Anatole
Kaletsky
says 'Anglo Saxon'
banks should put
Europe in the dock
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STOCK MARKET		
FTSE 100	5,785	(-30.4)
Yield	2.75%	
FTSE All Share	2,882.85	(-7.58)
Nikkei	12,982.49	(+94.41)
New York		
Dow Jones	8,230.87	(-73.37)
S&P Composite	1,234.69	(-4.71)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	4.75%	(4.75%)
Long bond	5.30%	(5.30%)
Yield	5.30%	(5.30%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	5.25%	(5.25%)
Libor 3m (6)	5.25%	(5.25%)
Libor 6m (6)	5.25%	(5.25%)

STERLING		
New York	1.1282	(1.1282)
London	1.1282	(1.1282)
Paris	1.4815	(1.4817)
Frankfurt	2.3202	(2.3216)
Yen	165.35	(165.35)
S index	100.5	(100.7)

DOLLAR		
London	1.1288	(1.1288)
Paris	1.4817	(1.4823)
Frankfurt	2.3202	(2.3216)
Yen	165.35	(165.35)
S index	100.5	(100.7)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent15-day(Apr)	\$18.55	(\$18.15)

GOLD		
London close	\$288.75	(\$288.15)
* denotes midday trading prices		
Exchange rates Page 26		

US venture capitalist to give away computers

By MARTIN BARROW

THE Internet frenzy took a new twist yesterday when a US entrepreneur promised to give away thousands of personal computers in return for the right to display advertising on the screens.

Venture capitalist Bill Gross is to offer US consumers a Compaq PC, worth just under \$1,000 (about £613), Internet ac-

cess and electronic mail — all for free — in exchange for viewing targeted advertising. He expects to give away 10,000 computers in the second quarter.

The scheme by Free-PC takes advantage of falling computer prices and the strong appetite among consumers for Internet links. Mr Gross, who is

backed by the Barry Diller, the US home shopping tycoon, will generate revenue by charging advertisers for access. The launch of Free-PC is certain to fuel the debate over the price consumers pay for personal computers in the UK. Last year Intel, the US computer company, accused Dixons, the UK retailer, of stifling growth in demand for PCs in Britain by overcharging.

The complaint, which received a sympathetic hearing from Peter Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, was fiercely denied by Dixons at the time. Dixons has since enjoyed success with the launch of its own Internet service and its shares have enjoyed a strong recovery, rising from 472p in July to a peak of £10.59p last month on the back of the City's Internet frenzy.

Yesterday BT and Microsoft announced an alliance to develop data services that will offer access to the Internet from mobile phones. Separately, EMI joined with four rival record companies to finance a project to download music direct to home computers via the Internet in an attempt to thwart computer pirates' bootlegging music albums by e-mail.

Mr Gross, who is backed by the Barry Diller, the US home shopping tycoon, will generate revenue by charging advertisers for access. The launch of Free-PC is certain to fuel the debate over the price consumers pay for personal computers in the UK. Last year Intel, the US computer company, accused Dixons, the UK retailer, of stifling growth in demand for PCs in Britain by overcharging.



Wheels in motion: Stephen Byers talks to Kevin Howe, right, managing director of the Longbridge plant, on his visit to the Rover factory yesterday

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
AND SIGRID AUFTERBECK

Government to campaign for Rover plant's survival

THE Government will mount a strong campaign to press BMW to keep open Rover's Longbridge plant in Birmingham, workers at the plant were told yesterday. It will tell both the company and the German Government that Longbridge is vital to the UK economy.

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, held crisis talks with managers and unions after last week's boardroom upheaval at BMW,

which was triggered by the continuing losses at Rover. He told employees on the works committee, which comprises convenors and shop stewards among the 14,000-strong workforce, that the Government fully supported Longbridge. He said the workforce had addressed the problems of pro-

ductivity which have helped to plunge Rover into massive losses. He said they had demonstrated flexibility in the rescue plan agreed in December, which involved 2,500 job losses and an overhaul of working practices.

Mr Byers said that he would tell BMW that Long-

bridge was not only vital to the West Midlands economy — where its closure could cut 50,000 jobs in total — but also to the UK economy. He added that the Government was in close contact with BMW and will do "all we can to represent the interests of Rover and Longbridge in particular".

The future of Rover and Longbridge was thrown into doubt after the British subsidiary's only real supporter, Bernd Pischetsrieder was sacked as chief executive along with his heir apparent, Wolfgang Reitzle. Herr Reitzle had wanted BMW to ditch its Longbridge operation.

The new chief executive is Joachim Milberg, the former head of engineering whose views on the future of Rover are less well-known. It is believed that BMW will review its strategy over the next two weeks.

Maxwell may be forced to speak to inspectors

By JON ASHWORTH

KEVIN MAXWELL, youngest son of the late Robert Maxwell, the media tycoon, may be forced to answer questions put to him by government inspectors, after failing in a High Court legal challenge yesterday.

Mr Maxwell, 39, was challenging the Government's refusal to help to pay for a lawyer to represent him in interviews with inspectors investigating the affairs of Mirror Group Newspapers. Rejecting his application for a judicial review, the judge, Lord Justice Scott, started "certification" proceedings against Mr Max-

well, which could compel him to speak to the inspectors. Failure to comply could lead to Mr Maxwell being held in contempt of court.

The inspectors, Sir Roger Thomas and Raymond Turner, were appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry in June 1992 to investigate the affairs of MGN, with particular regard to the £500 million flotation in 1991. They have heard 171 witnesses in person and received written evidence from 105 others, and want to interview Mr Maxwell.

Mr Maxwell, who was made

bankrupt in 1992 and discharged from bankruptcy in 1995, says that, as a married man with six dependent children aged between two and 14, he cannot afford legal fees.

Mr Maxwell argued that the inquiry could lead to further criminal charges and moves to disqualify him from holding company directorships. The inspectors, he said, should be content with the mass of evidence documented during his trial and during other inquiries into his financial affairs.

The hearing continues.

Counter-bid unlikely as Stakis agrees takeover

By DOMINIC WALSH

A COUNTER-BID for Stakis looked increasingly unlikely last night as the hotel and casino group agreed to a 146p-a-share takeover from the rival Ladbroke Group.

The deal, valuing Stakis at £1.16 billion, or almost £1.4 billion including debt, received a resounding thumbs-up in the City. Ladbroke shares jumped 16 pence, adding 38p to 269p, while Stakis gained 16p to 157p.

Because the offer is a mix of 60 per cent in new Ladbroke shares and the rest in cash, yesterday's

rise lifts the offer price to about 160p, against 109p before last week's confirmation of the talks.

"That should put off any other bidders," said one analyst. David Michels, Stakis's chief executive, joins the Ladbroke board as head of Hilton International, precipitating the departure of David Jarvis with an estimated £1 million payoff. The other main casualty is Neil Chisman, the Stakis finance director.

Annual cost savings of "at least £16 million" were predicted, al-

though analysts believe the actual figure could be double that. Up to 200 jobs will be lost from the closure of Stakis's Glasgow head office.

The combined chain of 92 UK hotels will lose both the Stakis and Hilton National brands. A new identity based on the Hilton name and capable of being used outside the UK is expected to be drawn up, probably after discussion with Hilton Hotels Corporation, Ladbroke's US partner.

Tempus, page 28; City Diary, 29

Safeway upbeat on trading

By FRASER NELSON

SAFeway yesterday claimed a small victory in the supermarket Christmas trading battle, outstripping rival J Sainsbury with 3 per cent sales growth over the past four months.

The company — still recovering from last year's profits warning — said it has been consistently gaining market share since May, helped by the Triple Points promotion on its ABC loyalty cards.

Simon Laffin, finance director, said: "The scheme needed to bring an extra 2 per cent on sales to break even. It did. When we stopped the promotion, this fell by between 0 and 1 per cent, leaving us with people who had come back for good. For the 17 weeks to February 6 its underlying sales grew by 3 per cent, having slowed to 2.2 per cent over the six weeks to January 2. Last week, J Sainsbury said its underlying sales grew by 1.2 per cent over the 19 weeks to January 30.

Tempus, page 28

Cut!

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Here's a clever way to make the most of falling interest rates - a product which 1) offers three years of discounts, 2) allows your payments to fall with any future rate reductions, 3) comes with no redemption penalties (so you can overpay at any time) and, 4) if you're concerned to protect yourself against rates going up, has a cap of 6.99% (2.5% APR) to 1.5% (2002). The details: 1. 1.5% discount until 1.5.2000 + 1.5% (cap) until 1.5.2001 + 1.5% discount until 1.5.2001 and a 1% discount until 1.5.2002. Available for purchases and remortgages up to 90% of property value. Call now for our nearest branch.

A £50,000 interest only mortgage (being £79,976.00 credit + £25 fee) on a property valued at £120,000, completing 31/03/99 over 25 years. 1 gross monthly repayment of £800.00 followed by 11 gross monthly repayments of £803.34, 12 gross monthly repayments of £803.34, 276 gross monthly repayments of £816.67 and one final gross repayment of £80,416.67. Total cost of credit £204,228.64. Total amount repayable £208,003.64 calculated to include an arrangement fee of £500, £126 legal fee, £246 valuation fee, £25 fund release fee, £49 John Charcol intervention fee and £25 sealing fee. The APR is typical for an interest only loan over 25 years and assumes the lender's Standard Variable Rate will remain at 7.25% (2.25% APR) for the cost of credit £204,228.64. Total amount repayable £208,003.64 calculated to include an arrangement fee of £500, £126 legal fee, £246 valuation fee, £25 fund release fee, £49 John Charcol intervention fee and £25 sealing fee. 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BUSINESS ROUNDUP



FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AT&T, the US telecoms group, in the venture, one Wall Street analyst said: "BT is obviously serious about being a player in wireless Internet services. They've made a powerful point. Wireless Internet is becoming the next big thing in telecoms."

Some analysts agree with the projections of mobile operators that next year more mobile phones with Internet connection will be sold than laptop computers.

BT will involve Concert, its international corporate customer arm, in the alliance which will offer services primarily aimed at businesses. Concert was originally built up as part

of BT's attempted takeover of MCL, the US phone company. The failure of that deal left a gaping hole in BT's US expansion strategy which it now hopes to fill with the new Microsoft and AT&T links.

Microsoft's main interest in the deal is establishing the Windows operating system as a universal standard for mobile Internet communications.

Paul Maritz, Microsoft's group vice-president for platforms and applications, announced the partnership with BT at an industry conference in New Orleans.

Last November, Microsoft and Qualcomm of the US created a joint venture, Wireless

Knowledge, to develop wireless services for business customers in the US. The alliance with BT is expected to focus on non-US customers, with trials in the UK beginning in the spring.

In another link-up of telecoms and computer companies, Motorola and Cisco Systems, the Internet hardware company, yesterday agreed an alliance to develop mobile Internet technology.

The two companies say they will spend up to \$1 billion (£600 million) over the next five years to make the Internet as versatile over mobile networks as through telephone lines.

PARSIMONY of governments and crash-induced fears of private investors made the flow of finance from developed to emerging economies shrink by 11 per cent to \$324 billion (£199 million) in 1997, the first drop in the decade. A report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development predicts a further fall for 1998.

Official development aid by OECD members fell to an average of 0.22 per cent of output, the lowest recorded and less than a third of the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent. Some European countries trimmed budgets to meet Maastricht treaty rules but America's contribution, at 0.09 per cent of output, was proportionately lowest. Only direct private investment rose, chiefly to buy businesses cheaply in crashed Asian economies. The OECD estimates that 13 billion people, a quarter of the world population, exist on less than \$1 per day.

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch consumer goods manufacturer, is selling the salad and dressings business of Fritz Homann Lebensmittelwerke to Gilde Investment Management, an investment fund based in The Netherlands, for an undisclosed sum. The business, which boasts annual sales of about €175 million, will be merged with Becek Feinkostgruppe, a German salad and dressing company owned by Gilde, to create a new convenience foods group in Germany.

By FRASER NELSON

EMI has joined with four rival record companies to finance a project to download music direct to home computers via the Internet in an attempt to thwart computer pirates bootlegging music albums by e-mail.

Universal, Sony, Time Warner, Bertelsmann and EMI are understood to have paid about £15 million to take part in the so-called Madison Project, a six-month experiment co-ordinated by IBM. The five companies have donated 200 albums between them, which will be made available for downloading from an IBM website by authorised users. IBM believes

its system to be pirate-proof, with only authorised users able to play the music on their computers or make tape recordings.

The experiment comes in response to MP3, a compression formula that enables computer users to download pirated CD-quality songs from the Internet, then record them on their own tapes and discs.

This has spawned a new breed of music fans who swap pilfered songs by e-mailing them to each other.

In the absence of any official Internet music sites, Internet pirates have grown to dominate the market, making them freely available all over the

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

A CONSORTIUM of Silicon Valley investors and media moguls launched a new company called FreePC yesterday aimed at giving away computers to anyone agreeing to have advertising permanently coming up on their screens.

Barry Diller, the home shopping media man who made Fox Television into the fourth national network in the U.S., is backing the venture, the brainchild of Bill Gross, who runs a California-based venture capital fund. Compag will supply the computers, including an Internet connection through which advertising will continually be uploaded.

In return FreePC customers

from the use of the phone. Some computer pioneers believe that free hardware will become a mainstream trend in the industry: as computer manufacturers give away free software to computer buyers, so Internet content providers could give away the hardware to bind consumers to their output channel.

Don LaVigne, the FreePC chief executive, said: "The consumer will get connected into the information age without cost and advertisers will get a broad demographic of a very targeted audience."

"Free PCs and Internet access will be the inevitable next step with the explosion of e-

THOMSON-CSF, the French defence electronics group, saw sales rise only slightly in 1998 but a 7 per cent increase in new orders brought the order book to a record level. Sales rose 5.1 per cent to €6.18 billion (£4.28 billion) last year, while new orders rose 7 per cent to €7.02 billion. Thomson-CSF said that the order book at the end of the year was up 20 per cent to a record €13.4 billion, from €11.1 billion a year earlier. In 1997 sales came to €5.87 billion and new orders €6.57 billion.

ROXSPUR, the specialist manufacturer, gave warning that its order book from UK manufacturing customers is "extremely short" and that a cumulative shortfall in sales volumes has seen it fail to hit growth targets. Shares fell 14.3p to 43p off a 12-month high of 117.5p. Pre-tax profits for the six months to December 31 rose £500,000 to £1.5 million; earnings per share fell from 2.8p to 2.3p. There is no interim dividend.

SHARES in Dana Petroleum put on 25 per cent yesterday, rising 1½p to 7½p, after the company realised £21 million in asset sales and the renegotiation of the take-or-pay contract with British Gas Trading for its stakes in the Victor gasfield. The contract sees Dana receive compensation of £11.3 million, while the sale of one third of its interest in Victor to Centrica and the sale of other interests in offshore blocks brought in £9.7 million.

JOHN MENZIES, the distribution group, has won a £25 million, five-year contract to provide a passenger and baggage transfer service at Heathrow. The company is taking on 120 staff from the existing contractor and will acquire seven coaches and 35 specially designed vans to transport an estimated three million passengers and 6.5 million bags on the service to be branded Connect.

With effect from the start of business on 9th February 1999 the following Business Cheque, Deposit and Lending rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

TSB

By MARTIN BARRON

SHELL is to invest \$8.5 billion (£2.5 billion) in oil and gas projects in Nigeria and has announced yesterday that the projects could lift the troubled nation's oil output by 25 per cent over the next five years.

Taken together, the projects amount to the biggest investment in sub-Saharan Africa, and could rejuvenate the oil industry in Nigeria after years of neglect caused by political unrest.

Two elements of the investment are the development of four big offshore fields, including the giant Bonga discovery, where production is expected to exceed 100,000 bbl per day. This oilfield will be linked via a new pipeline to the Bonny liquefied natural gas plant.

The announcement was a welcome vote of confidence in Nigeria for its military Government and civilian rulers due to take over power in June. It is the first for foreign financing to place a definite end to the economic deficit caused by a slump in oil prices.

Shell currently produces a little less than half of Nigeria's oil, shipping the rest in oiler tankers away from the onshore barrels of crude, mostly from onshore wells at \$2 a barrel. The deep offshore reserves offer a brighter prospect for the future of the community of oil-rich nations.

[illegible]

There is still time to apply if you have already registered and received an application form. You should complete and submit your application form to meet your participating stockbroker or share shop's deadline.

[illegible]

Klausur

Ken

It is but a short hop from offering free Internet access to providing free computers. While Sir Stanley Kalms may not be ready to make it, in the United States the give-away computer has arrived.

This development will, no doubt, catch the attention of those in Government who have decided that berating British companies for ripping off their customers amounts to an electoral-friendly strategy on consumer affairs. The Office of Fair Trading has already been encouraged to take a look at the prices that Sir Stanley and his competitors charge for computers. No matter how they may try to justify their prices, they most certainly aren't giving them away.

But FreePC is no exercise in philanthropy. The motive for giving away the hardware is the belief that there will be fortunes to be made out of the software and those who use it. The day when we live our lives, or a very important part of them, in the brave new world of the Web moves ever closer.

The Madison Project gives an indication of the radical changes to come. Courtesy of record companies, IBM and the Web, music lovers in San Diego are going to be able to download the albums they would like to own. They might even do so through the keyboard of a free computer. The music companies will be able to slash production costs; the music

buyer will be offered almost instant gratification. Should he or she be a sensitive soul, rather fond of browsing through a CD collection and reading the covers, even though they lack the sensory appeal of the old LPs, then the technology is available to meet their needs. Every home could be equipped to produce a CD, complete with the appropriate printed cover, from the downloaded information.

The music lover would have had no need to venture out into the high street or queue to pay at his favourite record store. The computer would have done away with the need for a visit to HMV or Our Price. Could this realisation be gradually dawning on the venture capitalists who appear to be losing some of their initial enthusiasm for relieving Richard Branson of his chain of more than 200 Our Price shops?

Probably not. The Madison Project is, after all, restricted to San Diego at the moment, so poses little threat to record sales in Surbiton or Southampton. But it is another pointer to the way that e-commerce could develop and the drastic effect it could have on the retail property market.

Much has been heard about

the potential impact on conventional bookstores of Amazon.com and the other Internet bookstores. Records are also increasingly being sold over the Web. But almost immediate delivery, and significantly lower costs, would make Internet-buying almost irresistible. High street record sales would be virtually dead. A prospect that would cause some concern to Woolworth as well as Mr Branson.

Let's hear a hand for the economy

What a great self-justifying day the statisticians have provided for those famous two-handed economists.

On the one hand, manufacturing was falling vertiginously into recession at the end of 1998. And it is not just export orders, hit first by the strong pound and now by the weak euro. Factory prices to domestic buyers are

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

now falling consistently. For the first time since records began 40 years ago, producer output prices have fallen year on year. The over-riding fear must now be of a genuine deflationary spiral, the first here since the depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s.

On the other hand, retail sales rebounded strongly in January, however modest the big shopkeepers themselves would prefer to be about customers' ability and willingness to dip deeper into their wallets. They have not, however, thrown caution to the winds. Much to the retailers' chagrin, consumers have become bargain-hunters, intent on finding the best deals. The sales increases that the British Retail Consortium was anxious to play down yesterday were only bought at the cost of its members' margins.

By a process of evolution, most City economists are now more likely to be one-handed at any given moment. Put them together,

though, and half a dozen ferrets in a sack have nothing on the ensuing erudite debate.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, you may think, is bound to be just such a dialectical academy. That may explain, if anything can, why the Bank was still racked with fear as recently as last summer, lest the UK economy was overheating so uncontrollably that it might go critical.

Inflation paranoia might still haunt the corridors once paced by Montague Norman if America's Alan Greenspan had not told his peers round the world that it ain't necessarily so. Conversion, once it came, was completed fairly rapidly.

The Bank, with or without the latest output figures in mind, has seen the vast empty space between base rates and what the UK needs and the rest of Europe charges. It is trying to bridge that gap at a brisk but orderly pace. The change in psychology is vi-

tal. It should mean that any sustained recovery in retail sales is treated with relief rather than alarm and that a weaker pound is greatly to be wished. The battle to stop the whole economy following manufacturing down the plughole is far from over and all allies must be welcome.

Lure of the euro is all Greek to them

Greece was the only EU country to want to join the euro but suffer hurtful rejection. It still faces labours of Hercules to meet Maastricht tests and be next to join in 2001.

Privatisation candidates such as Olympic Airways and Ionian Bank should have raised plenty of cash to window-dress state coffers by now, but they are still not coming up to scratch. Olympic should have thundered up the runway years ago, but remains grounded. Efforts, including cash injections, to make the unreconstructed carrier more profitable have misfired. A rash of strikes sent passengers fleeing. Profits of £25 million in 1996 turned into a loss of £85 million in 1997 and an expected loss

of £10 million to £35 million in 1998. Last week, the Government gave up and invited outsiders to bid for a management contract with a strategic alliance in view, perhaps with British Airways. Yesterday, Theodore Tsakiridis, the managing director, resigned.

An attempt to sell the State's majority stake in the 222-branch Ionian Bank failed last August, so JP Morgan was brought in to help. Days before yesterday's new deadline for bids, however, Morgan had to reveal that a fifth of the bank's assets were accounted for by one back-to-back deposit and loan deal in London. There has been no stampede to buy.

Perhaps the Greeks should not be concerned. The vaunted euro has just set another record low. At this rate the euro 11 will soon be begging to join the drachma.

Duff investment

IT IS just a touch embarrassing for the chairman of the Personal Investment Authority to find himself embroiled in a dispute over a duff investment, but Joe Palmer can probably shrug off his unfortunate involvement with Lasser Richmond. He presumably believed that Telford was set to become the international office location of choice when he set about extolling the attractions of the Telford enterprise zone trust. Over-optimistic valuations have cost investors dear. The PIA chief will no doubt sympathise.

Hillsdown sells biscuits operation

Hillsdown Holdings, the struggling food group, has sold its continental biscuits operation to its management for £42 million. Proceeds of the sale will reduce Hillsdown's gearing to below 100 per cent. The sale comes six weeks after Hillsdown sold the Ross Breeders poultry breeding business for £100 million.

Hillsdown also wants to dispose of its wines and spirits wholesaling operation, but plans to offload its furniture-making companies, a potato business and a poultry processor have been shelved.

B&B letter

Bradford & Bingley, the building society, is spending £500,000 writing to its 25 million members urging them to reject the pro-conversion resolution which Stephen Major, a plumber from Co Antrim in Northern Ireland, has put forward for the annual meeting in April. Meanwhile, Michael Hardern is planning to target the Nationwide, the country's biggest building society, for a third time.

BHL buys Rebel

Brands Hatch Leisure, the motor circuit operator, has acquired the Rebel Group, a karting circuit operator, for up to £5.5 million in cash and loan notes. The Rebel Group runs the Daytona Raceway karting tracks in Milton Keynes and White City, West London.

Vickers forecast

Vickers, the diversified engineering company, said it estimated pre-tax earnings in 1998 were about £55.6 million. It also expected a net exceptional profit of £101.4 million and intends to retain the final dividend at 4.5p. *Tempus*, page 28

Pubs takeover talks

Shares of Cafe Inns, the North of England pubs operator, yesterday rose 18p to 222.5p as the group said it was in discussions that may lead to a takeover. Pubs'n'Bars also said it had received a takeover offer. Its shares rose 2p to 52p.

Property disposal

Chesfield Properties is planning to sell off its property portfolio after failing to find a buyer for the whole group.

Scotia tops the market with a 42% General Mills injection

By PAUL DURMAN

SCOTIA HOLDINGS yesterday was the best-performing share on the UK stock market following a wide-ranging deal with General Mills, the American food company.

Shares in the Scottish drug development company, which once topped £8, jumped 42 per cent to 98.4p.

General Mills, the company behind Cheerios cereals and Yoplait yoghurts, is to develop a range of diet foods using Scotia's Olibra, an ingredient that is said to induce a sensation of fullness.

Scotia is expected to earn royalties of 2 to 3 per cent of sales when the product is launched in two years' time. General Mills has a turnover of more than \$6 billion (£3.6 billion). However, it will develop cereals and other products for markets, with a worldwide value of \$75 billion.

Rob Dow, Scotia's chief executive, said: "This is an enormous validation of the potential commercial value of the technology. These guys have found the clinical data to be satisfactory. It will attract other

significant players to do deals with us." It was not clear whether the General Mills deal will affect plans by St Ivel, owned by Unigate, to launch desserts and yoghurts containing Olibra later this year. Skanemejerier, a Swedish milk company, is already marketing Maval yoghurts in the UK but it is struggling to meet Scotia's sales targets.

General Mills has acquired an exclusive licence to apply Scotia's "satety technology" to all food and drinks in the US, Canada and Mexico, and a worldwide licence for its use in cereals. The American group will pay modest milestone payments to maintain the licences.

Dr Dow, formerly with Roche, has abandoned many of Scotia's far-based drug development projects since taking over as chief executive last year, while cutting staff numbers from 420 to 250.

Poorly-designed clinical trials had prevented Scotia winning regulatory approval for promising drugs such as Tarnabecic, a treatment for the nerve damage caused by diabetes.



Rob Dow said the General Mills deal is likely to attract other significant players to Scotia

Rebus joins the market exodus

By ROBERT LEA

REBUS, the IT services group, joined the flow of quoted companies being taken private yesterday, blaming a lack of interest in smaller shares on the London stock market.

Peter Presland, Rebus chief executive, who will remain in the post after the buyout, said: "It is imperative for us to access resources to grow this business. What is the point of remaining a quoted business if you cannot access these resources through the markets?"

Rebus, whose IT interests include personnel outsourcing, payroll services and technology for the London insurance market, is being taken private by Warburg Pincus and General At-

lantic Partners, two US venture capital funds skewed toward the IT sector who have bid 182p per share for the company.

The offer, recommended by the Rebus board, values the group at £172 million or at more than 31 times' historic earnings. The deal represents a 32 per cent premium to Rebus's shares when before Friday's statement when the company said it had received a bid.

Since Rebus was demerged from CE Heath, the insurance group, three years ago at a price of 88p, the shares have habitually traded at a significant discount to many others in the IT sector. The shares rose 18p to 177.5p.

Inchcape disposals near £650m

INCHCAPE, the international trading conglomerate, continued its asset disposal programme with the sale of its shipping services division to Electra Fleming, the venture capital firm, for £47.5 million (Paul Armstrong writes).

The sale takes the proceeds from the divestment programme to £648.5 million, paying the way for a £500 million-plus return to shareholders later this year.

Inchcape is on target to complete its sell-off by June, with only two businesses to be sold: a consumable products distributorship in the Middle East and half an office products distributorship in the Asia-Pacific region.

Profits up 40% at PizzaExpress

By DOMINIC WALSH

PIZZAEXPRESS, the fast-growing restaurant operator, defied the economic gloom yesterday with a 40 per cent jump in half-year profits and a positive outlook on its prospects.

The group, which has more than 200 restaurants, lifted pre-tax profits from £9.4 million to £13.2 million in the six months to December 31, from turnover 28 per cent higher at £61 million. Earnings per share reached 14.9p (10.3p) and the interim dividend is 1.3p (1.05p).

Like-for-like sales growth, although well below the 12 per cent of this time last year, was nevertheless well ahead of most competitors at 3 per cent. The group said it saw "no sign

of the underlying demand for our pizzas slackening". David Page, the chairman, said: "It's a bit variable, but we're hoping to stay in positive territory for the full year."

Neither its fledgling pasta brands nor its international franchises are expected to make much of a contribution until 2001. New franchises are under negotiation covering South Africa, Spain, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and North Africa.

In addition, the company is close to signing a joint venture for Japan in which it would invest about £125,000.

Tempus, page 28

Palmer snared in dispute over property plan

THE chairman of the Personal Investment Authority, a pair of property developers nicknamed the Earls of Dudley and 900 private investors have become embroiled in a legal dispute over a Midlands property scheme that went sour (see Commentary, this page).

At the centre of the dispute are two office buildings in Telford. Their development in 1992 was financed through a £30 million enterprise zone property trust (EZPT) — the Lasser Richmond (Telford) Trust, which is now said to be worth just £9.3 million.

The investors are aggrieved at the collapse in the capital value of the two office blocks, where the space is only 30 per cent let, and are seeking to recoup their losses.

Last week, a group representing 80 per cent of the investors served a statement of claim on the EZPT's sponsors, Johnson Fry, the financial adviser, and Richard Ellis, the property firm, alleging that investors had been misled by the original marketing literature.

Brian Woodward, spokesman for the investors, described the scheme as "highly speculative and grossly overpriced". He said: "The investors relied on the sponsors as they held themselves out as specialists with experience in EZPTs. Unfortunately, this reliance was misplaced."

Mr Woodward said the tax benefits of the scheme had been wiped out by the fall in value of the Telford buildings, leaving investors with a net loss. The trust's units had a net worth of less than 50p in the pound.

The investors, who each contributed an average of £34,000 to the trust, also argue that the rental income from the Telford properties was misrepresented by Johnson Fry and Richard Ellis as guaranteed for up to 30 years. In fact, the trust's

bank guarantee lasted for just six-and-a-half years.

Although the investors have focused their legal action on the sponsors — both of which declined to comment — they also considered bringing a suit against the trust's manager, Lasser Richmond, chaired by Joe Palmer, then chief executive of Legal & General, until he left to join the PIA.

Mr Woodward said the trustees of the scheme were separately pursuing legal action against Grimley, another firm of surveyors, which provided the original valuation of £30.2 million. Mr Woodward said "a retrospective valuation" of the Telford properties had them closer to £14 million.

Lasser Richmond, is 70 per cent owned by V&P Midlands,

the development company of Roy and Don Richardson, the brothers who shot to fame and fortune by turning a piece of waste land in Dudley into the Merry Hill shopping complex, thus the Earls soubriquet.

They built the office blocks, Plaza Tower and Plaza Court, and then agreed to lease them back for 25 years through a subsidiary named Telpa, so guaranteeing the rental income for the investors.

This income was also guaranteed for six-and-a-half years by a deposit with Lloyds Bank. However, when that pool of money ran out in September 1998, Telpa said it would have to renege on the leaseback.

Investors opposed these plans and the Richardsons agreed to continue paying the rent while new tenants are found. Mr Woodward argues the nature of the guarantee on the rental income was thus misrepresented, a charge the sponsors and Richard Ellis are sure to contest.

RICHARD MILES



Palmer: left to join PIA

(DILLIUS DALLIUS IMPLEMENTUS)

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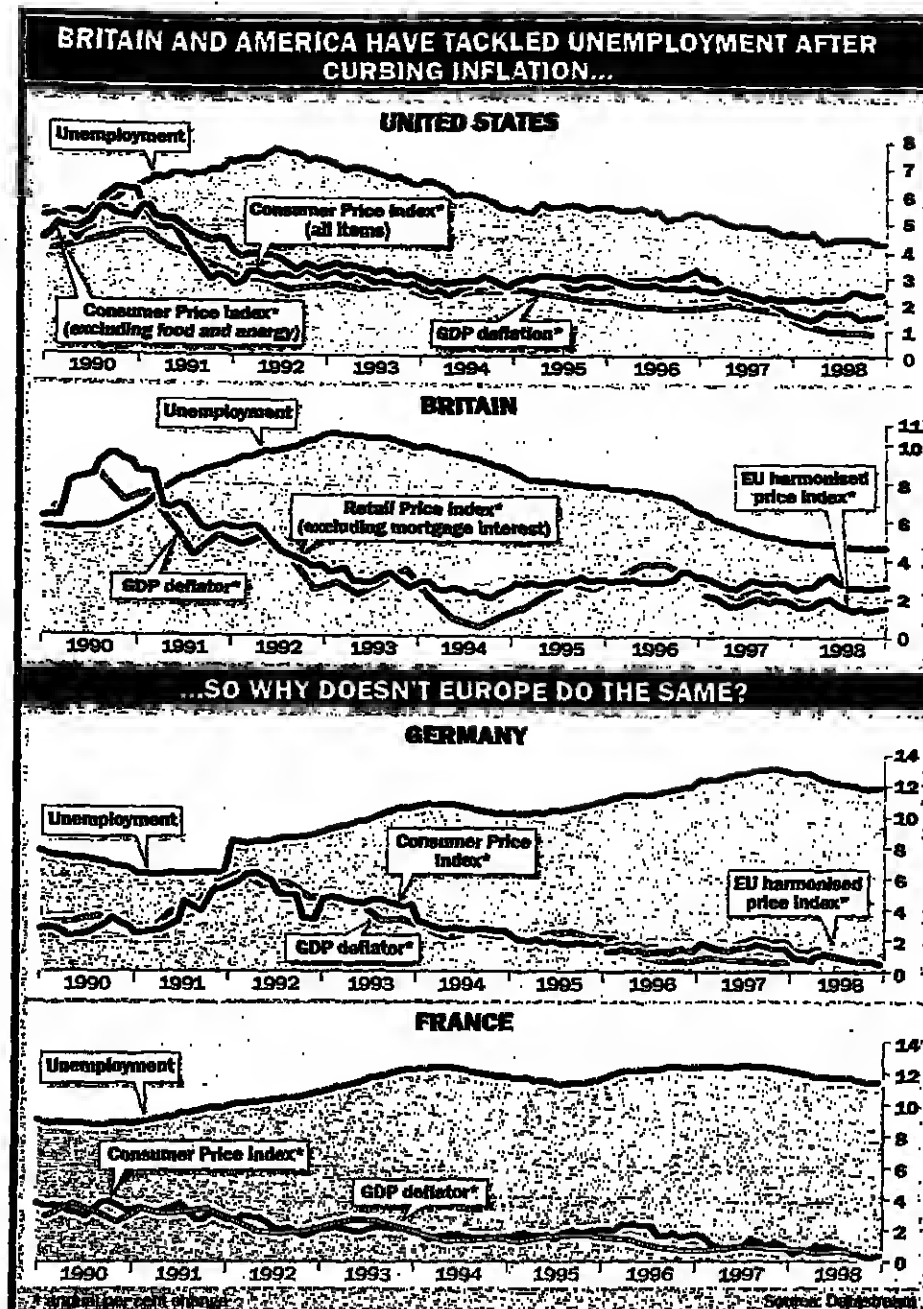
Bold 'Anglo Saxon' central banks put Europe to shame

Monetary policy
in Europe
is still living
in the
pre-Keynesian
Dark Ages

Last week's bold cut in interest rates by the Bank of England was as welcome as it was unexpected. It was welcome not only for the obvious reason that it should help to silence the prophets of doom who had been predicting a recession that was never likely to happen, thereby doing unnecessary damage to business confidence and consumer demand. There are two other, more subtle, reasons for welcoming the boldness of the Bank.

First, the seemingly perverse reaction of the currency markets, which pushed sterling sharply higher after the dramatic rate should help to inject some realism among the many British industrialists who still seem to believe that all of their difficulties can be blamed on the "overvalued" pound, a strictly temporary problem, which the Government could easily resolve by announcing a decision to join the single currency. Secondly, the Bank's explicit determination to stimulate economic growth (in theory to guard against the danger of excessively low inflation) should emphasise the contrast between the stumbles of European and Japanese central banking and the successful "Anglo Saxon" model of monetary policy gradually developed in America and Britain over the past decade. The essential difference between these approaches can be summarised in a few sentences. In Britain and America (as well as in Canada, Australia and a growing number of smaller countries) monetary policy is used boldly and more or less explicitly to control both inflation and unemployment by flexibly managing demand. In Europe, by contrast, central bankers are still living in the pre-Keynesian Dark Ages. Any suggestion that monetary policy should be used to stimulate growth and reduce unemployment is a heresy punishable by economic excommunication or even political death.

Consider first the question of the "overvalued" pound. With every month that goes by, the evidence keeps mounting that the pound's present value is not just some kind of temporary aberration, attributable to exceptionally high interest rates, short-term worries about the euro or irrational enthusiasm about Britain's economic prospects. In the past two years, British interest rates have fallen by two percentage points relative to the German level, yet sterling has scarcely budged. Waves of euro-phoria and euro-pessimism have come and gone, but the pound has been little affected. Consensus views about Britain's economic performance have ranged from the Jeremiahs from the City in 1997 about a return of Britain's "inflationary nightmares" to last year's equal-



ity ludicrous warnings from the CBI surveys that industrial conditions were worse today than in the recessions of 1980-81 and 1991-92. But amid all this sound and fury, the pound has remained firmly entrenched in its trading range of \$1.60 to \$1.70 and DM2.65 to DM3.05.

The fact is that the pound has not been particularly overvalued or even especially "strong" in the past two years. It has simply recovered to around its average level of the previous two decades from the unsustainably low level to which it fell in 1994 and 1995, when the mark and other European currencies temporarily shot off into the stratosphere as a direct result of the monetary incompetence of the Bundesbank. Looking at Britain's competitive position in the global economy, the pound has, since 1997, been hovering around the level required to ensure that British exporters and importers can maintain a rough balance of trade. The current account deficit of about £10 billion which most forecasters expect for Britain in 1999 is about as close to balance as can be expected, once due allowance is made for the contrast between Britain's robust domestic economy and the depressed economic conditions in Europe and Asia.

The issue can be put in more direct policy terms. The pound is now hanging in the middle of the

range of DM2.65 and DM3.05 in which it has fluctuated for over two years. Why, then, should anyone assume that the conversion rate if and when Britain joins the economic and monetary union will be significantly lower than the present DM2.94? On balance, it seems reasonable to conclude that if Britain were to join the single currency, at least in the foreseeable future, the exchange rate would have to be very similar to the one that prevails today.

This thought alone may be enough to deter some of the British businessmen who seem to support monetary union for crude reasons of short-term currency tactics. Many of these are the same people who wanted to join the exchange-rate mechanism in 1990 because it would allow an immediate reduction in British interest rates. But last week's bold action by the Bank of England also underlined a much more important strategic and philosophical issue. To call this issue politically explosive would not be an overstatement, which is why it ought to be debated now, before it is too late, by politicians and commentators not only in Britain and America, but also in Germany, France and the rest of Europe. This issue is, to put it bluntly, the irra-

tional and potentially illegal behaviour of the European Central Bank.

What I mean by irrationality should be clear to anyone who studies economic statistics or simply looks at the charts above. The ECB's main legal responsibility, as defined by the Maastricht treaty, is to "maintain price stability". The ECB's main predecessors, the Bundesbank and the Banque de France, had exactly the same goals. But price stability was achieved in Germany and France more than five years ago. So why on earth has the ECB, along with its predecessor institutions, continued to pursue a deflationary monetary policy which has kept European unemployment at or near post-war record levels?

The standard answers offered by critics of European central banking have been excessive caution, stubbornness, dogmatism, incompetence, pride and so on. But in the past few weeks, some of the critics of the ECB have begun to toy with an even more explosive accusation. Perhaps it can be argued that the ECB is not just acting irrationally or incompetently in ignoring the interests of Europe's jobless; perhaps it is actually breaking the law.

The Maastricht treaty defines the duties of the ECB as follows: "The primary objective of the

ECB shall be to maintain price stability. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability, the ECB shall support the general economic policies in the Community with a view to the achievement of the objectives of the Community as laid down in Article 2." Among the objectives laid down in Article 2 are "a harmonious and balanced development of economic activities", "sustainable and non-inflationary growth" and "a high level of employment". In other words, once price stability is attained, it appears that the ECB may be legally bound to observe the instructions of the European political leaders and finance ministers regarding support for their "general economic policies". And there can be no doubt at all that the ECB is legally obliged to pursue a policy that will maintain sustainable growth and a "high level of employment", provided this policy is consistent with the primary mandate for price stability.

Until recently, nobody would have dreamed of paying much attention to the legal niceties of the ECB's legal mandate. But in the past few days, three developments have occurred which suggest that this indifference may be about to change.

The first such development was mentioned in this column last week. It is the growing pressure from America for the ECB to pursue a monetary policy explicitly designed to boost European demand. This pressure is almost certain to grow in the months ahead. The second development is much more important. It is the transformation of political attitudes to monetary policy within Europe.

This was most clearly exemplified by a small story in yesterday's *Financial Times*. The story reported an attack on the ECB by an official from the German Ministry of Finance, Stefan Collignon, head of the directorate of European affairs. Herr Collignon explicitly stated that "the ECB is obliged under law to support economic growth after it met its primary objective of price stability".

Until recently European central bankers have had a standard answer to such admonitions. They simply claim that any effort to promote growth and employment through monetary policy would be in conflict with the price stability goal. But this brings us to the third and most important recent development: the success of the Bank of England and the US Federal Reserve in maintaining price stability and simultaneously using monetary policy to ensure adequate growth and full employment. If the Anglo Saxon central banks continue to succeed in combining both inflation and growth objectives, the ECB's single-minded obsession with inflation and contempt for growth and employment objectives will stand exposed. The ECB will be rightly accused not only of incompetence but of breaking the law.

Now that President Clinton's trial is almost over, perhaps it is time for some impeachment in Europe. Step forward into the dock, Wim Duisenberg.

The pre-pay phones are similar, but crucially different. The similarity is that they are



Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes in the recently released film *Shakespeare in Love*

Mobiles herald the onset of the pre-pay plastic revolution

What is the biggest marketing success story of the past year? Plagio scooters? Sony PlayStation? The re-emergence of Terry Venables as a candidate for England football coach? The answer is that nothing in the marketplace can compare with the success of pre-paid mobile phones.

In the three months before Christmas, 25 million new customers were signed by the big four mobile companies. To put this in perspective, this is by far the best quarter for mobile phone growth in the UK and represents nearly £500 million worth of new business.

All enjoyed a bumper harvest of new customers, though the happiest will be Vodafone and Celtel, which were able to regain some of the momentum they had lost to the newer market players — One-2-One and Orange, which had used "image marketing" to great effect, the former signing up Ian Wright, Chris Evans and Kate Moss and the latter through arts sponsorship.

The success of these "pay as you talk" initiatives has encouraged quite a few firms to take a fresh view of the pre-pay market. Typically, this has been seen as a downmarket, rather unpromising area, which involved selling stamps that people collected to pay off their gas bill or TV licence. However, some companies, such as Park Foods, have enjoyed success with savings clubs. In Park's case persuading customers to put something by each month to pay towards a Christmas hamper or some jewellery. Park makes money by not only selling the goods, but also through the interest on the money it has collected up front.

Now these market segments are lucrative, but limited. They work largely by persuading people on low incomes that it is wise to budget for expensive items by putting a little cash away when they have some spare. These people would be better served by opening a building society account so they received the interest — not Park Foods and British Gas. But this is an issue for the banks, which have been criticised by the Office of Fair Trading for not reaching out to the poorest parts of society.

The pre-pay phones are similar, but crucially different. The similarity is that they are



JASON NISSE

aimed at customers that the mobile phone companies could not win before because either the customers could not obtain credit — because they were too poor, too young or had a bad payment history — or the customers did not want to take on onerous contracts for a mobile phone. With pre-pay there is no contract. You buy the phone and then you buy a card that gives you anything up to £100 worth of call credits.

At this point there is a little bit of science — which is where pre-pay phones differ from what has gone on in the past and show the way forward. To have enough security in the card to carry quite a lot of

money, and also to allow some of the clever ways of loading up the card with extra credits, such as data sent down a phone line, the companies have been using chip cards. Until quite recently these were too expensive to be used widely, but now they cost about £1.50 each to make.

According to Heiko Haasler, market analyst for De La Rue, which makes these cards, the price point is crucial. Banks, supermarkets, utility firms and the like can afford to give away chip cards as a marketing tool, when previously the cost might have been prohibitive. Customers who can obtain credit can use these cards for small-value transactions, rather than carrying cash. Customers who cannot obtain credit can use them as if they were a credit card. With the growth of e-commerce, this

is its management upheavals, backing *Julius Caesar*, Amex is putting the money into the infrastructure. However, having a sponsor's name on the theatre would not really be in keeping with the 16th century image of the Globe.

The answer is for Amex to sponsor a new exhibition in the undercroft, dedicated to Shakespeare and with American Express emblazoned prominently in the entrance area.

will be increasingly useful as, for example, a teenage Internet junkie cannot buy the latest computer game over the Net as he or she doesn't have a credit card. But if they have a pre-pay card, they can load it up with pocket money and use it for Internet transactions.

Card transactions, rather than those undertaken with cash or cheques, give the issuer of the card all sorts of valuable information about the customer's spending habits, which can be handed on to the direct marketing department. Expect to see everyone from Tesco to London Transport issuing pre-paid cards in the near future. The revolution will be thin, rectangular and plastic.

□ The success of *Shakespeare in Love*, the mushy movie starring Joseph Fiennes as a playwright with writer's block and Gwyneth Paltrow as a cross-dressing aristocrat, has been largely attributed to American becoming misty-eyed about the Bard. Indeed, had it not been for an American, the late Sam Wanamaker, Shakespeare's Globe theatre would not have been saved.

Now it seems some more Yanks, egged on by the Fiennes fare at the cinema, are putting their backing behind the Globe: American Express in fact, which is sponsoring the theatre to the tune of £175,000.

However, this generosity has caused a slight problem. Unlike Ford, Panasonic and UBS, which have sponsored plays (UBS, appropriately given its management upheavals, backing *Julius Caesar*, Amex is putting the money into the infrastructure. However, having a sponsor's name on the theatre would not really be in keeping with the 16th century image of the Globe.

The answer is for Amex to sponsor a new exhibition in the undercroft, dedicated to Shakespeare and with American Express emblazoned prominently in the entrance area.

Jason.nisse@the-times.co.uk

Sons also rise

RICHARD BUDGE is a man of action. Faced with the collapsing share price at RJB Mining, he has decided to strengthen his management team.

Step forward a new director of mining services. He is only 27 but part of his job will be to "ensure RJB remains a leading player on the world mining scene". Then there is the new opencast director, heading up all the company's considerable opencast operations. He is a shade older at 29. These two high achievers have one thing in common. Yes, you've guessed it. Grant and Kurt Budge are sons of the chief executive. Still, he could have appointed his brother, Tony, who has not been around since his engineering group collapsed a couple of years ago.

FOLLOWING on from the strange symbol run by this column a few weeks ago — which was revealed as the signature of the company secretary at Carlton — Below is another

odd imprint. This is the signature of person whose views will shape the new Europe. Who is he and what does this strange device say about him? Answers at the end of the column.

Hello campers

TO THE Oaklands Hotel in Weaverham, Cheshire, where on March 10 Eurocamp shareholders will be asked to approve a name change to the tautological Holidaybreak. Readers will remember that Eurocamp's previous attempt to change its name — to Holidaymaker — was thwarted by Airtours, which has that as a trade name. However, I think it is tempting fate for Eurocamp to hold this meeting only a few miles from the home of Airtours's boss David Croxland.

Sheepish

I KNOW where I will be, this Thurs-



day, and that is on London Bridge, watching Peter Moore herd a sheep called Ramrod from Southwark into the City. Mr Moore is better known as the Town Crier of Southwark, Docklands and most of London — apart from the City, that is. However, the City attempted to make amends last year by granting him the Freedom of the City. This honour bestows the right to herd sheep across London Bridge. So he has borrowed Ramrod from a brewery in Wandsworth and is ready to exercise this right.

DAVID MICHELS has a fair bit on his plate as chief executive of Hilton International, not the least of which is what to call the combined Hilton/Stacks hotel business in the UK. Yesterday Mr Michels said that although the new name would be

"Hilton something, or something Hilton" for the time being he would be using the working title "Lakis". I think I prefer the name "Stilton".

Sour taste

MY CONGRATULATIONS to the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Stock Exchange for selecting HP Bulmer, the cidermaker, for producing, along with Boots, the best annual report and accounts last year.

Richard Sykes, the chairman of the judges, commended Bulmer on "an outstanding example of corporate reporting". Shareholders, though, might wish that the Bulmer's management had not been quite so good at reporting the company's woes. The shares are amongst the biggest dogs on the market, currently languishing at a seven-year low.

Moran more

CONGRATULATIONS are also due to the House of Lords, which has ruled against the controversial financier, Christopher Moran, in a dispute about an office block in Gray's Inn Road. The details are extremely complex and were in a law report run in this paper last Friday, but the upshot is that Mr Moran is having to pay a small public company called Strategem about £1.5 million.

I call Mr Moran to ask him how much of a blow this ruling is to his empire and his project to rebuild Crosby Hall on the banks of the

Thames in Chelsea. "A mere dent," he tells me. "My business is in rude health."

AND the answer to the signature teaser is that Lawrence Warner, a graphologist, ran on instant blind test and concluded: "This seems to be an assertive person who likes to have the last word. He knows a lot of answers but might not always let on to other people what they are or let on much about himself." Which seems to be what everyone feared about Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Central Bank, whose signature it is.

JASON NISSE

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Good News for NatWest Customers					
NatWest announces the following reduction in interest rates.					
Effective from (and including) 1 March 1999					
Old Annual Rate	Old EAR (see footnotes only)	Personal Lending	New Annual Rate	New EAR (see footnotes only)	
8.75%	9.10%	All interest rates applicable to Tailored Loans will be reduced by 0.50%			
		Advantage Premier Overdraft	8.25%	8.56%	
8.50%	N/A	Advantage Premier Loan	8.00%	N/A	
10.75%	11.29%	Gold Plus	10.25%	10.74%	
10.75%	11.29%	Premium Unsecured	10.25%	10.74%	
9.75%	10.19%	Premium Secured	9.25%	9.65%	
15.50%	16.64%	Special Unsecured	15.00%	16.07%	
10.75%	N/A	Bridging Loan	10.25%	N/A	
8.50%	N/A	MSA Loan	8.00%	N/A	

All regulated consumer credit agreements are varied accordingly.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank Plc 41 Lombury, London EC2P 2BP

Modest losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

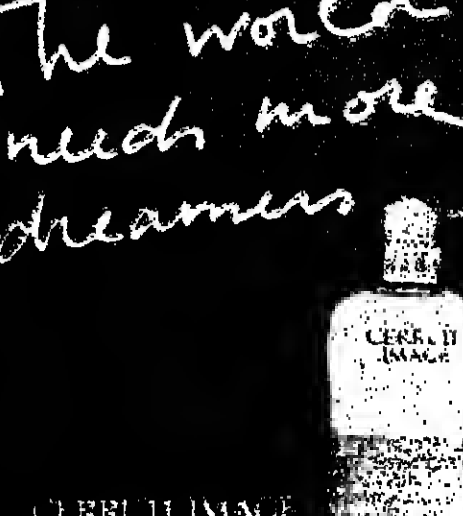
Modest losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1999	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
101	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	0.00	0.0	101.00
102	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	0.00	0.0	102.00
103	103.00	103.00	103.00	103.00	0.00	0.0	103.00
104	104.00	104.00	104.00	104.00	0.00	0.0	104.00
105	105.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	0.00	0.0	105.00
106	106.00	106.00	106.00	106.00	0.00	0.0	106.00
107	107.00	107.00	107.00	107.00	0.00	0.0	107.00
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The world
needs more
dreamers

CERRUTI IMAGE
THE NEW DRESSING FOR MEN





GALLERIES
Hayward pays
homage to
Patrick Caulfield
PAGE 33

THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE

A steamy,
sleazy Carmen
for our times

PAGE 34



Potted
history
of urban
man

The brother and sister of all wars

Have you seen the bumper-sticker, "Insanity is inherited, you get it from your children"? That would make a nice epigraph for the opening contribution to the ten-week, five-work season which, with excessive modesty, Hampstead Theatre calls "a small drop of ink". I could cite you many plays since the 1950s which have accused parents of tyranny and oppression. It is refreshing to find a lively piece by an unknown writer, Man Parker, which concedes that the jackboot can be on the other foot.

It is not just that Lee Oakes's gangling, gormless Craig has been playing truant in his GCSE year in order to have a secret affair with some rich, spoilt bitch and, now that she has rejected him, spends his time glumly slouching about or calling his unemployed dad a pathetic loser. That is mild stuff beside the problem posed by his sister, Jackie Morrison's Celine. She has shut herself up in her bedroom for the past six years, communicating only by cryptic notes and thumps on the inside of her door — and ruling the house as if she were a Chinese empress and the sad little kitchen-cum-living-room below the Forbidden City.

THEATRE
Celine
Hampstead

At first Celine is content simply to send back trays of food on the pretext that her mother hasn't washed her hands, or to fling hot water in the long-suffering woman's face. But then she speaks, and begins to talk of ending her isolation, sending the family into spirals of sympathetic zeal. Paul Copley's mild-mannered Dad, outrageously accused of neglect by the daughter who has rejected him, launches into the sort of frantic display of self-abasement one associates with Mao's victims. And soon he and Alison Fiske's Alas for Doris, late 20th-century audiences, daily bombarded by clashing sensations, are pretty hard to provoke, especially when three intervals allow them to file away each part of the concert in different sectors of the brain. As an experiment in cultural fusion, then, not much was achieved. The marathon made much better sense as an exercise in widening audiences, pulling into the hall people

behaviour that, on both her parents' and her own side, seems more than a mite extreme. Maybe the play is stylistically akin to Kopit's *Oh Dad, Poor Dad*, about a culture-mother who keeps a dead husband on a hook in the closet, or Giles Cooper's spoof of adult infantilism, *Happy Families*. Maybe we should see it as a satire on the lengths to which parents will go to appease difficult children.

Edward Hall's production left me happy to do just that, although there are aspects of the play that worry me. The author eventually loses interest in Craig, making it hard to understand why he is behaving like a crazed hermit one moment and making ultimate sacrifices for Celine the next. Celine's long last speech is more credible when it is imaginatively rambling than when it is suggesting that she feels love for her beleaguered family. The symbolism — that dredger in the muddy estuary outside, that evil-looking old Dad catches on his rod — seems over-emphatic. Still, here's a new author with an original take on family politics and a new play with genuine bite.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE



Some mothers do 'ave 'em: Celine (Jackie Morrison) leads a hand in the continuing persecution of her mother (Alison Fiske) in Man Parker's *Celine*

CONCERTS: A thousand unnatural shocks; Barenboim back on the piano stool; Grisey's ghosts remembered; moving spirit of jazz

If I were Guillaume de Machaut, pride and glory of 14th-century France, I wouldn't know what had hit me on Saturday night. First, my *Messe de Notre Dame* is praised out of its liturgical context and performed in a barren space apparently known as a concert hall. Secondly, the Kyrie, Gloria and all the rest are interspersed with sounds from Islam — the breathy murmurings of the Turkish flute, familiar to whirling dervishes. The Mass is performed, what is more, in a space previously occupied by exuberant Africans, immodestly dressed, who chant, thump drums, rub sticks, shake chests, sprawl on the floor and wave the odd leg.

In theory Serge Dorny, artistic director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, created this concert precisely to apply

A multicultural marathon

Roots Day
Festival Hall

shocks to the system, hurling cultures at one another and letting similarities emerge. His theme was ritual. An overlong African rainforest sampling by Zaire's Polyphony Ekonda was followed by Kent Nagano, the LPO, and the artful simplicities of Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. Then came the Machaut and Turkish flute, and the bloody tumult of *The*

Rite of Spring, far removed from Copland's farmer and his bride building their nest in the Pennsylvania hills. "Alas for Doris, late 20th-century audiences, daily bombarded by clashing sensations, are pretty hard to provoke, especially when three intervals allow them to file away each part of the concert in different sectors of the brain. As an experiment in cultural fusion, then, not much was achieved. The marathon made much better sense as an exercise in widening audiences, pulling into the hall people

drawn by the calypso, flamenco and other ethnic flings held in the foyer in the afternoon.

Was there enough to entice them back to a classical concert presented next? At first there were doubts. Only by the end of *Appalachian Spring* did Nagano find that tender simplicity and fresh-air glow that is the work's special glory — qualities more evident, anyhow, in the original chamber version. The Machaut, performed by the Hilliard Singers with Kudsi Erguner, cried out for a smaller venue, though a modest spell was cast. But then Stravinsky's *Rite* blasted across the auditorium, the brass and woodwind lustroously savage, the details clear, the pace electric. Machaut would have been frightened to death.

GEOFF BROWN

Lion resumes his day job

Daniel Barenboim is one of the few musicians in the world today who could accurately be described as legendary. His relatively rare appearances in this country as a conductor always generate excitement, but expectations at the Festival Hall on Sunday afternoon were even higher: this was his first London piano recital in a decade. If it marks a return to the regular solo work of which Barenboim has often talked, this will have been more than a memorable concert.

There was good news even before he had played a note: half this recital was devoted to Beethoven, a composer with whom Barenboim has always been especially associated. Here his performance of the *Pathétique* Sonata had expressive freedom, with a first movement full of little surprises but also architecturally strong. The Adagio was a deeply felt outpouring of melody, and in the finale a few fluffed notes seemed a small price to pay for such musical insights.

Daniel Barenboim
Festival Hall

Barenboim's towering natural musicianship is indeed what counts. He may no longer be at the height of his pianistic powers, but few other players could still deliver a more satisfying account of Beethoven's Sonata in E major, Op 109, and certainly not in between conducting Wagner operas. Here the suspense of his spacious opening was relieved in a roller-coasting Prestissimo and a set of massive variations that mixed poetry and vigour. The finale's theme had a profound spirituality that was only heightened by its return after such daring treatment.

It was inspired programming to contrast Beethoven with the First Book of Debussy's Preludes. Barenboim was just as illuminating here, justifying his note in the programme in which he protested

against the narrow "Impressionist" label commonly applied to the composer. Not that he ignored the wash of sound called for in this music: perhaps orchestral experience has even increased his feeling for tone colour at the piano.

Opening the sequence, *Danses de Delphes* was remarkable for its carefully shaded sonorities, but similar care was taken over Voltes, characterised by whole-tone haziness, and the mysterious *La cathédrale engloutie*. Yet Barenboim proved that many of these works are about attack and articulation, and he caught the seductive warmth of *Les callines d'Anacapi* and the wit of *La danse de Puck*. He brought each of the 12 Preludes to life, none more miraculously than the etiolated *Des pas sur la neige*: it takes a great artist to maintain the mood of such introspective music while simultaneously capturing the imagination of almost 3,000 listeners.

JOHN ALLISON

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BUILDING A LIBRARY
A guide to the best classical recordings
in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

BACH'S DOUBLE VIOLIN CONCERTO
Reviewed by Simon Hughes

DAZZLED by his later accomplishments as a composer and organist, we forget that Bach started out in life as a humble fiddler. One of his sons tells us that he played with a "clean and penetrating tone", and that to direct the orchestra from the violin rather than the harpsichord. And that's the approach taken in the latest recordings of his violin concertos on period instruments.

With clean and incisive playing, the violinist Andrew Manze leads the Academy of Ancient Music in the most exhilarating performance currently available. But choosing this version doesn't mean sacrificing the joys of a warm and passionate slow movement. To recreate the kind of emotional charge which would have excited Bach's original audiences at the court of Köthen in the 1720s, Manze and second violinist Rachel Podger risk adding expressive ornamentation. Some comes from Bach himself (from his later arrangement of the concerto for two harpsichords), but what they invent themselves stands up less well to repeated listening. But this is a performance full of fresh insights — risk-taking, mercurial and as thrilling as the news that from April it will be available at budget price.

On modern instruments, Arthur Grumiaux and Herman Krebbers with the Solistes Romands conducted by Arpad Gerecz offer some of the most intense delights on the market. But for sheer sustained inspiration and delving, charismatic solo playing Jascha Heifetz and Emil Friedman with Sir Malcolm Sargent and the New London Symphony Orchestra (RCA 09026 61746-2, £10.49) are still unbeatable after 30 years.

Heifetz's Bach is precise but passionate; soulful but never sentimental. As the glorious slow movement unfolds with the sensuality of a love duet, we realise that we're in the company of Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard, not Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio. But there is nothing old-fashioned about the speeds, which are dramatically propulsive and neck-and-neck with the Academy of Ancient Music. Even the middle movement lingers not a moment too long.

With superb digitally remastered sound and one of the world's greatest violinists, it is time this classic performance was rediscovered by a new generation of listeners.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Mendelssohn's Oboe

Spiritual cry for help

CBSO/Oramo
Birmingham

When you listen now to Bernd Alois Zimmermann's *Trumpet Concerto* 45 years after it was written, it is impossible to hear it just for itself. You simply cannot forget that the composer of *Nobody Knows the Trouble I See* (its alternative title) was to kill himself 16 years later — which makes the gradual unfolding of the spiritual on which it is based all the more poignant.

It is also with the benefit of hindsight that we can appreciate the work for its extraordinary anticipation of later developments. In its appropriation of sounds and techniques associated with jazz trumpeters such as Charlie Parker and Miles Davis, admiration for Zimmermann's courage in doing that tends to draw attention away from the fact that his mixture of New York bebop and Darmstadt serialism is not entirely convincing.

However, with a trumpeter such as Hakan Hardenberger working alongside a sympathetic conductor like Sakari Oramo, stylistic integration is

not a problem. Hardenberger's focused sound, his command of the finest nuances of colour, his apparently effortless ease at the extremes of the range, his awareness of the line rather than his own star situation, all draw the ear into the emotional inspiration of a work which, now, seems like the beginning of a cry for help.

The other two works in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's concert in Symphony Hall, both of them somewhat laboured in interpretation, were Mozart's little G minor Symphony No 25, K183, and Tchaikovsky's Fifth in E minor. Oramo's pacing of the Tchaikovsky was only marginally on the slow side and it did have its advantages — in emphasising the ominous intentions of the introduction, for example, and in allowing time for the phrasing of the more graceful melodies in the first and third movements. The Andante cantabile was beautifully done, but even here the spontaneous impulse was sometimes missing.

That same problem was more in evidence in the first movement, which needed a stronger expressive urge as well as a more propulsive rhythmic continuity. It was particularly acute in the finale, which is in danger of sounding ponderous if it is treated as a respectable symphonic construction and not allowed just a little hysteria as it reaches its disproportionate, overstated conclusion.

GERALD LARNER

Tribute to a rare talent

London Sinfonietta
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The French composer Gérard Grisey died last year, before Britain had really caught up with him. Represented occasionally in small concerts at the Institut Français and promoted by fellow composers, such as George Benjamin, his ingenious, spectral soundworld has been heard more in the music of others than his own.

If "spectral" means exploring the insides of sounds to find new sources of music, the pre-concert performance of *Accords Perdus* (Lost Chords) made the perfect calling card. Two horns sliding down their own gleaming twine of natural harmonics (brilliantly played by Michael Thompson and Richard Clews) formed a telling aperitif to Grisey's final work, *Four Songs for Crossing the Threshold*. It is hard not to find in these songs, all about death, a chilling premonition. There is dissolution, memory and pain in every note.

The soprano Valérie Anderson's performance of the songs had an exquisite fragile anxiety.

ty. The first song, concerning the "death of dreams", rose from disconcerting warblings of muted brass to the voice and trumpet's passionate embrace. In the second song a liany of Ancient Egyptian sarcophagi is underpinned by a microtonally dissonant harp bass — a more primitive sound is hard to imagine. Then a polyphony of pattering drums scampers towards the final song, the "death of humanity". What emerges is a tender, uneasy lullaby. The shapes and spacing are familiar, but there is a strong sense of hearing a grammar, a syntax reworked from an ancient language.

Grisey's songs were enchain by interludes of "sonic dust", creating a sense of continual music. Far Pierre Boulez, the idea of continuously unfolding music is a creative dynamic. Here we heard Benjamin and the London Sinfonietta play a new version of *Sur Incises*, once a ten-minute piano piece, now a 40-minute ensemble composition. The combination of pianos, harps and marimbas promised a ravishing wash of colours, and the performers delivered it in style. The pianos, ably played by John Consable, Cathryn Edwards and Richard Lacey, may often work in rhythmic union, but the attack of Boulez's earlier style is gone.

Strangely, Wolfgang Rihm's premiere, *Compressed Symphony*, revived that dry knock about aesthetic of earlier decades, with its manic oboe mordades and mordant string and guitar rasp.

HELEN WALLACE



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FOR

LAW



Seeking justice: Martin Cadman, whose son Bill was killed in the Lockerbie explosion, faces the cameras as he speaks to reporters

Let the people see the Lockerbie trial

There is no good legal reason to ban television coverage from inside the Dutch courtroom, say Dan Hogan and Dr Paul Mason

The BBC wants to film the forthcoming Lockerbie trial in The Netherlands. As a trial and as a broadcast, this would make legal history.

Two Libyans, Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi and al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, are accused of planting the bomb that exploded on Pan Am Flight 103, on December 21, 1988. In all, 270 people died, including people on the ground in Lockerbie.

The trial, to be held under Scottish law, in a specially built courtroom, will be Britain's biggest mass-murder case. Instead of a jury, there will be three Scottish judges.

The move by the BBC represents the sternest test yet for a set of strict legal guidelines announced in 1992 by Lord Hope of Craighead, who was then Lord President, the head of the Scottish judiciary. The guidelines resulted in BBC's pioneering documentary *The Trial*. Known as practice directions, they were specifically designed to encourage documentary and educational programmes. The directions state that they will allow "the use of TV in other cases where there would be no risk to the administration of justice".

The practice directions made it possible for TV cameras to film cases in the Court of Session and the High Court of the Justiciary, north of the border. However, TV cameras are

banned from courtrooms in England and Wales under Clause 41 of the 1925 Criminal Justice Act.

Alistair Bonnington, the BBC's legal adviser in Scotland, is making a strong case to the Scottish judiciary to allow the corporation to film the Lockerbie trial. He said that had the trial been scheduled to take place in America, it would have been televised. Without TV coverage, it would be difficult for relatives to follow proceedings. Mr Bonnington said: "My view is that television is fulfilling a democratic function by providing people with the opportunity to view something which in normal circumstances would not be convenient or expedient to do so."

Under the practice directions, the presiding judge would still have the final word on what footage could be broadcast. Mr Bonnington said that, ideally, editorial con-

trol should belong to the BBC. It is unclear whether the guidelines would allow "gavel to gavel" live coverage as in the O.J. Simpson and Louise Woodward trials. These state:

"In view of the risks to the administration of justice, the televising of current proceedings in criminal cases at the first instance will not be permitted in any circumstances."

However, Mr Bonnington said, for the first time in the Scottish system, the case would be heard in a higher court without a jury. That removes a huge barrier. A big problem with contemporaneous reporting is when jurors go home at night and watch TV news and the selectivity of editing skews their memory. The judges will, Mr Bonnington said, be "perfectly capable" of being above such media distractions.

Nick Catliff, the producer of *The Trial*, is working hard with the BBC to ensure that

the proposed broadcasting of the Lockerbie trial goes ahead. Mr Catliff is now a director of Lion Television, which has produced programmes such as *Trial by Jury* for the BBC, that feature real-life barristers and judges bearing a fictional criminal case.

It took two years to make *The Trial* because of complex negotiations with defence lawyers, the prosecution and the judge before consent was granted to film any of the cases featured in the series. Filming *The Trial* cost more than £180,000 an hour — six times more than covering a sporting event.

As for the Lockerbie trial, Mr Catliff added that the practice directions were strict, but workable. "This, in its own way, is the case of the century," he said. "But the same process has to be gone through, whether it is a shoplifting case or the Lockerbie bombing."

Professor Robert Black of Edinburgh University, who first proposed having the Lockerbie trial take place in a neutral third country, said: "I

This, in its own way, is the case of the century

did an interview before Christmas with the American broadcasting company ABC and it was blithely assuming that there would be television cameras in court."

● Dan Hogan and Dr Paul Mason are co-ordinators of the Southampton Institute Centre for Media and Justice. The issue of broadcasting in British criminal trials will be the subject of the Cameras in the Courtroom Conference at the Southampton Institute on Friday. For conference details phone 01703 39509 or e-mail dan.hogan@solent.ac.uk

When legal and judicial functions no longer mix

The judgment by his colleagues that Lord Hoffmann should not have participated in the Pinochet case, given his close connections with Amnesty International, is having an immediate impact on judicial practice. Judges are now declaring interests, however remote, before they hear cases. A recent European Commission of Human Rights decision confirms that more fundamental questions about judicial practice are posed by the concepts of independence and impartiality. Careful consideration will need to be given to whether the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, may continue to sit as a judge in the House of Lords and whether the law lords should remain members of the Upper House of Parliament.

Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights states that litigants and defendants are entitled to a fair hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal. The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has said that it is not sufficient that the judge is independent and impartial. It is also necessary that the judge appears so, in order to exclude any legitimate doubt on the matter.

In *McConnell v United Kingdom*, the European Commission of Human Rights decided (by 25 to 5) that the Royal Court of Guernsey was not an independent and impartial tribunal within the meaning of Article 6. Mr McConnell was refused planning permission to build a dwelling house on his land. When he appealed to the Royal Court, it was presided over by the Bailiff of Guernsey, who decides questions of law. The Commission noted that the Bailiff has other functions in Guernsey. He is President of the legislature and head of the island's administration.

The Commission found that these other functions "did not directly impinge on his judicial duties in the case" of Mr McConnell, and that the Bailiff "spends most of his time in judicial functions". Nevertheless, the Commission concluded that "it is incompatible with the requisite appearance of independence and impartiality for a judge to have legislative and executive functions as substantial as those" carried out by the Bailiff. Those other functions meant that "his independence and impartiality are capable of appearing open to doubt". That was enough to establish a breach of Article 6. The ruling would have been applauded by Thomas Jefferson, who argued that concentrating such functions in the same hands "is precisely the definition of despotic government".

The principle in *McConnell*, if upheld by

the European Court, would apply similarly to the role of the Lord Chancellor when sitting as a member of the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords. He is a legislator who presides in the Upper House, and he is an important member of the executive (a minister who chairs some Cabinet committees). So even though the Lord Chancellor's other responsibilities do not directly affect the performance of his judicial functions, there are strong institutional reasons based on the principle of separation of powers for concluding that he is not independent and impartial. That argument is particularly forceful in any case concerning matters of public policy on which the Government may have a view, or any case affecting the interests of the executive for example a revenue appeal.

As explained by Lord Eldon, Lord Chancellor at the beginning of the 19th century, there is a heavy price to pay if a Lord Chancellor is to be part of the legislature, executive and judiciary. The incumbent "must give his nights as well as his days" to the performance of the duties and must "pursue them even in the retirement of his house, and in the privacy of his closet". The European Convention may be about to lighten the burdens of the Lord Chancellor by preventing him from exercising judicial functions.

Whether the law lords should continue to sit in Parliament is one of the topics to be considered by the Royal Commission into the future of the House of Lords, under the chairmanship of Lord Wakeham. A number of law lords sit on parliamentary committees, and speak and vote on controversial matters of policy. This mix of legislative and judicial functions has long been difficult to reconcile with a principle of separation of powers. The problems will be exacerbated when, some time in the next millennium, the Government brings into effect the Human Rights Act 1998, making Convention rights part of domestic law and so requiring judges to make their own judgment about the balance between individual rights and the interests of the State.

The Lord Chancellor and the judiciary have welcomed the Human Rights Act as bringing Convention rights home. They should recognise that the constitutional reform promoted by the Convention will include changes to their own working arrangements so that the Lord Chancellor is no longer a part-time judge and the law lords are no longer part-time politicians.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



David Pannick QC

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The Chambers of John Goldring QC at 9 Bedford Row have the pleasure of announcing that Mr. Martin Wilson QC (formerly of 1 Serjeants Inn) will be joining chambers on 1st March 1999 as a tenant.

Mr. Wilson intends to retain his Hong Kong practice as well as receiving instructions from clients in the United Kingdom.

Chambers is also pleased to announce that Lord Bach of Lutterworth is now a door tenant.

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Legal DIARY

SO KEEN is Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, to be rid of his rights that he donated a pair to a special legal dinner last week held to raise funds for the Labour Party. The rights, in a double frame complete with photo of the wearer, fetched £1,000. Garry Hart, the Lord Chancellor's special adviser — who was auctioneer, along with Lord Falconer of Thoroton, now Minister for the Dome — insisted that they had been handwashed so there was no "hygiene problem."

But mystery surrounded the buyer. It was none other than Valerie Davies, a partner with Norton Rose and wife of Hart, who bought the lot as a birthday present for her husband, 59 in June.

The highest price in the auction — sponsored by DIBB Lupton Alsop — was for a drawing of the Dome by Richard Rogers, signed by both Peter Mandelson and Lord Falconer. This raised £1,300.

□ Geoff Hoon, Minister of State at the Lord Chancellor's Department, has fired a warning shot across the bows of the Law Society's Office for the Supervision of Solicitors (OSS). There have been growing calls from MPs for the profession to

be stripped of the right to deal with complaints against solicitors. Asked in a written question last week by the Tory MP David Amess what steps he was taking to "monitor the OSS", Mr Hoon said that he was waiting to see the Legal Services Ombudsman Ann Abraham's next annual report. "She stated in her last annual report that though the office had made some improvements since it started operating in September 1996, there is still a long way to go," he explained. "When the Ombudsman publishes her next annual report this summer, I will consider whether any further action is necessary."

□ David McIntosh, senior partner at Davies Arnold Cooper, has spent a lot of time recently trying to help the Law Society out of its troubles and stood for the vice-presidency last year. Now his own firm is experiencing some troubles of its own. It has just undergone a strategy shake-up and as part of the changes, at least five partners will leave.

□ Professor Richard Susskind, techie guru and adviser to the legal establishment on all things to do with computers,

has a new title: IT adviser to the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill. Susskind will speak under this title at a conference next week on the future of law and the politics of order.

Susskind is in a key position: he advised Lord Woolf on his legal reforms to the civil courts; he advises the Court Service on computerising the courts, and is now advising the judiciary, and all on a part-time salary, thought to be about £10,000. His main work is private consulting, for the likes of Clifford Chance.

□ The Internet is increasingly useful as a disseminator of information but there are limits to its usefulness. Last month the Lord Chancellor's Department posted the long-awaited new civil procedure rules on its website. Lawyers are desperate to get their hands on the rules to prepare for the Woolf reforms. But many complain the document is so long it is almost impossible to download it. One poor technician at a set of chambers is reported to have spent an entire weekend unsuccessfully trying to print out the rules.

□ Michael Dodd, not Michael Todd, wrote last week's article on government proposals to restrict media reporting of juveniles caught up in crime.

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GENERAL C



Police go into action during a hippy protest at Stonehenge: the line may look strong but a critical lack of public confidence is damaging the force's own morale

Holding the thin blue line in place

As we await the Stephen Lawrence report, how can public confidence in the police be restored, asks Liz Parratt

Hundreds of individuals turn every year to the civil courts to seek redress for assault, false arrest and malicious prosecution. Between 1991 and 1995, 886 people successfully sued the Metropolitan Police, but only one officer was convicted of a criminal offence.

The Police Complaints Authority (PCA) is independent of the police, but nonetheless it relies on the police to conduct their own investigations. Of 18,314 recorded complaints in 1997, only 214 were substantiated. A "success rate" of just over 1 per cent raises the question: does the current system really work?

The inquiry into the death of the young black South Londoner, Stephen Lawrence, in a racist attack has made that question even more relevant. The inquiry's report, due to be released this month, is bound to make strong recommendations for reform of the police complaints system.

The "critical lack of public confidence" identified by the Home Affairs Select Committee is not surprising. And as Lord Colville said in 1992: "If a disciplinary system seldom if ever reaches an adverse decision, it is more likely that nobody in that profession or discipline ever makes even the most minor mistake or commits some foible. The profession or discipline loses

more in efficiency and usefulness than its individual members gain by real or perceived immunity."

Calls for an independent investigation authority (IIA) are no longer heard solely from academics, lawyers, campaigners and complainants. There is an emerging consensus on this issue, which includes the select committee and the Police Federation. In response to the committee's recommendations, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has announced that feasibility studies will be undertaken, and that new disciplinary regulations will be introduced in April. Though the Association of Chief Police Officers' formal position is to retain existing arrangements, it has said that "if something came along that was good, persuasive and cheaper, we would not stand in its way".

The terms of the debate are shifting now from whether and why we need an IIA to how it would function. Liberty is undertaking a one-year

research project, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, to identify a realistic model.

What are its essential prerequisites to ensure that it secures the confidence of both the public and the police? First, it must guarantee that police officers are accountable to the law. It must be open, accessible, efficient, thorough and fair. Clear divisions of responsibility between the system and the police will be essential. Its functions must be undertaken with the fullest understanding of discrimination and equality issues, especially race. To secure the confidence of the police, it must have due regard to issues of operational and managerial independence. It must afford

police officers the full protection of the law.

These are ambitious and demanding aims. Identifying how they could best be met will require intensive research and wide consultation. One possible starting point might be the Hayes report, which formed the basis for the new arrangements in Northern Ireland, likely to be operational by June.

Under the Hayes model, complaints could be registered anywhere, and it would be for the IIA, not the police, to determine what is or is not a complaint. Judges, magistrates and lawyers would be able to refer directly to the

staff would all have the necessary skill to get at the truth and, once trained, would be able to root out malpractice. But would it be acceptable to employ former police officers? Should there be a central location, or would it need a regional office for each of the 43 police forces?

Should it be based on the quango model, governed by a panel of the great and the good, or would a different model be more appropriate?

A further issue is whether officers under investigation should be entitled to rely on their right to silence. Most employees do not have such a right, but they are not subject to independent investigation, which has a direct consequence on their employment. At present, the police service itself takes disciplinary proceedings against police officers. But the PCA has encountered difficulties where those in charge of a police force have been reluctant to take action against police officers and when forced to do so have "prosecuted" in a lacklustre way. Should an IIA also "prosecute" at disciplinary hearings, or is the separation of roles too important? Liberty believes that an IIA must become a reality. The report of the Lawrence inquiry may yet be the decisive factor in achieving this.

● The author is an official with Liberty.

Rich ground for British lawyers

A boom in international law is good for London, says Edward Fennell

Next week Jeremy Carver, a distinguished senior partner at Clifford Chance, will receive the insignia of the CBE for services to public international law. Rarely has such an award been made before and it reflects both Mr Carver's own highly personal skills and the growing profile of this field of practice.

The increasing number of cases taken to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the far-reaching influence of the World Trade Organisation and the growth in state-to-state arbitration have all fuelled the demand for the services of what is still a relatively small band of experts.

Mr Carver's first case, in 1969, was of a kind that has become all too familiar 30 years later. Following the takeover of Aden in Yemen by the communists, a number of Western bank staff were kidnapped. Clifford Chance, whose international credentials Mr Bundy stretched back to representing Cecil Rhodes and his Rhodesian interests, was brought in to act on behalf of their employers. The staff were released quickly and Mr Carver embarked on a career which has presented him with a series of unique cases.

Probably the most important was the rebuilding of the International Tin Council in 1985—a matter involving six years of work on behalf of 68 creditors and 23 states plus the European Community. "One needs to think beyond the normal restrictions of jurisdiction in order to create order out of what is frequently chaos," Mr Carver says. Largely because of his own enthusiasm, Mr Carver has built a

strong team at Clifford Chance. There is an equally substantial outfit at Herbert Smith, Allen & Overy has regular involvement in this work and so has Richards Butler, where the lead is taken by Mike Mackenzie-Smith based in Paris.

Typically Mr Mackenzie-Smith's cases involve border disputes. These have multiplied in number and complexity following the break-up of the Soviet Empire. The legal status of the Caspian Sea, for example, is a particularly hot issue because it involves not only lines on the map but, potentially, huge oil reserves and a number of rival, freshly independent countries.

Eversheds too has recently found itself plunged into these disputes by virtue of its takeover of Frere Cholmeley, Rod Bundy, an American based in the firm's Paris office includes among his regular clients the Governments of Iran and Indonesia. Mr Bundy regularly pleads (unlike his British equivalents) before the ICJ. Chief among his battle honours are the work he did in connection with the Iran-US tribunal in the wake of oil nationalisation and in the aftermath of the Tehran hostage crisis.

Campbell McLachlan, of Herbert Smith, says: "We are on the edge of an explosion in public international law and London is well placed to pick up much of the work. The importance of London as an arbitration centre, the critical mass of lawyers based here who specialise in the field and the general standing of English law should mean that we are the preferred choice for cases involving governments."

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On your head be it, my son

Was the FA on safe legal ground in sacking Glenn Hoddle? The FA has a good case, says James Davies

Glenn Hoddle's employment appears to have ended on agreed terms and a pay-off of £500,000, rather than an acrimonious legal battle. But what of Mr Hoddle's legal rights or those of anyone else who faces the sack because of their personal views, however unacceptable they might be to other people?

First, Mr Hoddle had the protection of his contract of employment. His right to compensation for the balance of his contract would have depended on whether or not his conduct struck at the root of the confidence that his employer, the Football Association, must have in him. It seems the FA may have taken the view that the conduct was not so serious. Otherwise, why pay Mr Hoddle such a large severance payment?

What about the fairness of the dismissal? It is possible, as the law stands, that the FA could have dismissed Mr Hoddle fairly. Another case in which an employer acted fairly in dismissing an employee for the expression of personal views concerned a ledger clerk sacked for refusing to take off what her employer regarded as potentially offensive badges supporting lesbianism. The tribunal ruled that the employer was reasonable to consider the wearing of the badges potentially offensive to customers and other employees.

Mr Hoddle had, however, expressed his views previously on BBC radio without, it seems, any warning from his bosses. He may well have concluded that such action amounted to tacit consent for his media pronouncements. This might have affected the fairness of any dismissal.

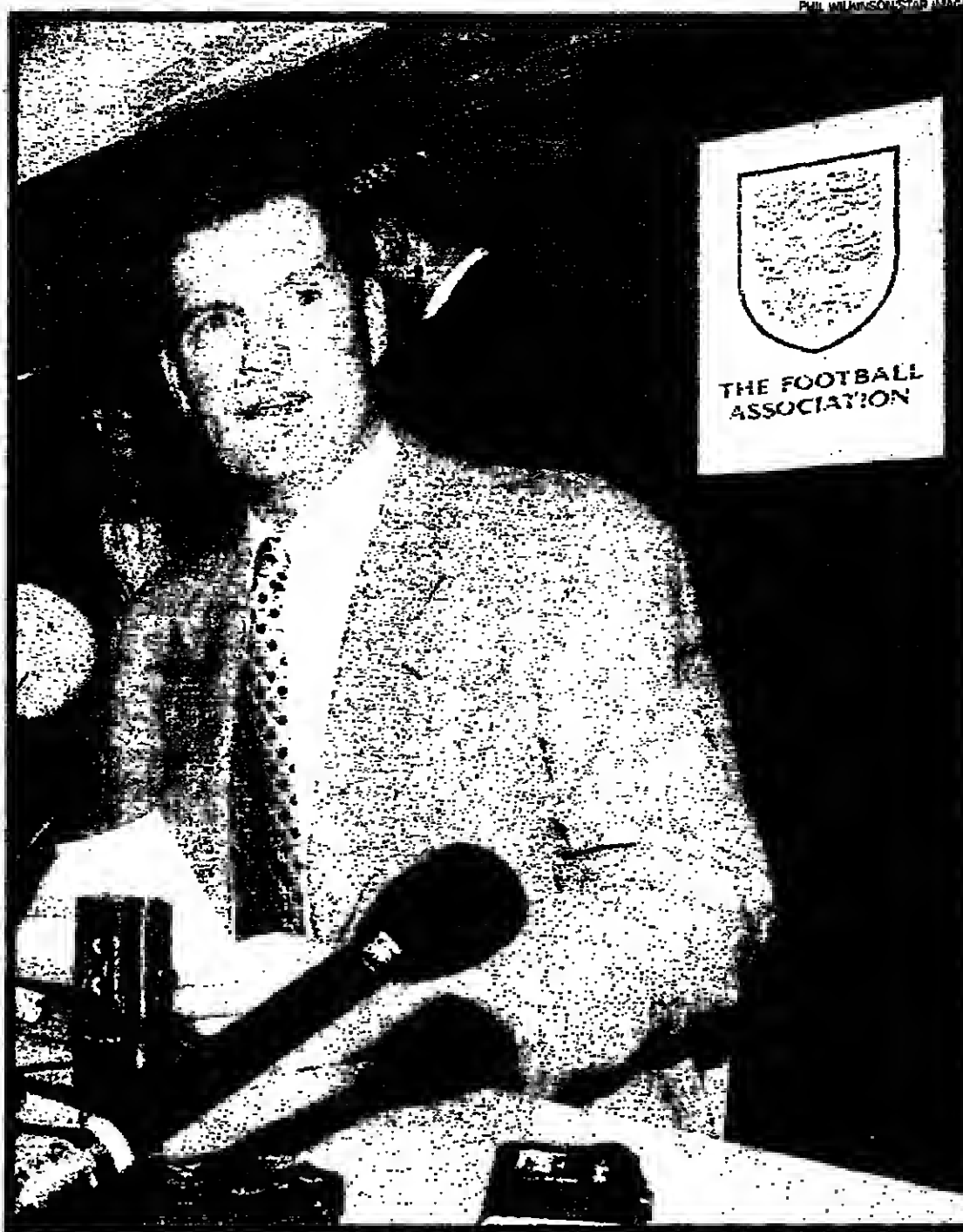
Lewie McInerney, the Northern Ireland football team manager, may well be in a stronger legal position than Mr Hoddle found himself. In Northern Ireland religious discrimination is outlawed under the fair employment legislation. Mr Hoddle might have argued that any dismissal because of his views on reincarnation was religious discrimination.

The episode also highlights the potential importance of the Human Rights Act 1998, which is likely to come into force next year, bringing the freedoms found in the European Convention on Human Rights firmly into UK law. Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention set out rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and to freedom of expression respectively. I do not know what aspects of Mr Hoddle's actions most concerned the FA, so it is difficult to assess whether his Convention rights might have been interfered with.

If Mr Hoddle's departure related to his dealings with the media over a period of time, then his Convention rights may not have been infringed. If, however, the concerns related to his religious views or his expression of them, then the position may be different. The rights under Article 9 have already been held to cover religious views such as the Krishna Consciousness Movement, Jehovah Witnesses, Scientologists and even the Omkaranda and the Divine Light Zentrum which, some would argue, embrace wackier views than those espoused by Mr Hoddle, and Article 10 would cover freedom to express opinions, however objectionable.

In any event, two potential defences might have come to the FA's aid: the possible legitimate aim of the limitation of these freedoms — for example, the rights of disabled people. It is not clear, however, that it is necessary to curtail Mr Hoddle's rights in order to protect the rights of disabled people.

The second defence is the proportionality of any infringement of his



The outgoing England coach under pressure: Glenn Hoddle takes questions from the media as he resigns

rights. In one case a Turkish Army judge who was retired for holding unlawful fundamentalist religious opinions was held not to have had his Convention rights breached. The European Court of Human Rights considered that by embarking on a military career, he had accepted certain limitations on his freedom.

Similarly, measures to dismiss employees for expressing views incompatible with their employer's interests have been held not to conflict with Convention rights. For example, a doctor who expressed views on abortion objectionable to his Roman

Catholic hospital employer was held not to have had his Convention rights infringed. On the other hand, the suspension of a German teacher on the grounds of her Communist Party activities was held to infringe her rights to freedom of expression in a case where there was no criticism of her work and membership of the party was lawful. The court found the interference with her rights to be disproportionate.

Mr Hoddle's dismissal, even if otherwise interfering with these freedoms, may nonetheless therefore be proportionate and lawful, bearing

in mind the specific place the England football team holds in British hearts necessitating the trust and respect of players and public alike. Like the Catholic doctor or the Turkish judge, he could be said to have accepted limitations by accepting the job. Once respect and trust evaporated, Mr Hoddle's position became, rightly or wrongly, untenable and it is far from clear that the law, even once the Human Rights Act comes into force, could have been his saviour.

● The author is a partner in the employment department of the London solicitors Lewis Silkin.

The FA is not offside over TV rights

Whose games are they anyway? Simon Carne goes for goal

The Office of Fair Trading objects to the way the FA Premier League sells the television rights to football matches. The OFT says that if any other business behaved like the Premier League, the competition authorities would intervene.

The OFT's argument, supported by Richard Prowse (Law, January 26), is that the 20 football clubs (or "businesses") that compete in the Premier League are acting as a cartel by joining together to agree on a broadcasting contract with one television company. The OFT's mistake is to think that the 20 clubs can be separated from the league and invited to negotiate their rights individually. This argument misses the point of how they derive their value.

A football match between, say, Arsenal and Liverpool cannot be separated from the competition it falls within. The commercial value of such a match depends on whether it is played in the league, the cup (which cup, which round?) or a friendly, when it usually has no value at all.

If you cannot separate the matches from the tournament without destroying the economic value of the matches, there is little logic in attaching the emotive label "cartel" to describe the tournament-organising body. After all, the regulatory response to a cartel is normally to break it up. But not even the OFT wants to break up the Premier League, only its television contract.

Faced with the real question — whether the TV rights to a sporting tournament should be owned by the organising body or by the participants — it is instructive to look at what

would happen if the law favoured the participants. Try to imagine Wimbledon's tennis tournament if the players, not the All England Lawn Tennis Club, owned the television rights. To satisfy the OFT, the rights would have to be broken down match by match and awarded to the two or four players in each one.

However, the rights would be unenforceable without access for the cameras. Is the All England Club to be forced to provide facilities for any and all broadcasters that the individual players choose to bring on to court with them? It is true that the law can be used to enforce access to private property if the property is an "essential facility" being used in an anti-competitive manner. But not even the most hawkish of competition authorities could declare the tennis courts of Wimbledon an "essential facility".

Would the position be different if the sport were football and the event was the FA Cup Final at Wembley — or the semi-finals played at other venues of the FA's choosing? Clearly not. Ownership of the TV rights would, again, be of no use to the clubs without the ability to ensure access for the TV company of their choice.

The access problem goes away only if the matches are played at venues owned by one or other of the teams. But does it make any sense at all to say that a football league's TV deal is anti-competitive if matches are played on a "home and away" basis, but not if they are on a neutral ground? And, if the court says it does, won't the clubs just sell their grounds?

● The author is a consultant specialising in regulatory affairs.

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Resolute Gough calls the tune

FROM JOHN STERN
IN WELLINGTON

WELLINGTON (first day of four; England Under-19 won toss; England Under-19, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 16 runs ahead of New Zealand Under-19)

ALREADY leading the three-match series 1-0 and with Michael Gough, the captain, winning an important toss on a green-looking pitch, England Under-19 took command on the first day of the second international match at Basin Reserve yesterday.

The New Zealand batsmen were disconcerted as soon as they had seen Matt Whiley seam a ball across Michael Pappas, who made a century and a fifty in the first match, and knock out his off stump. By lunch they were 42 for six and, half an hour before tea, they were all out for 110. Joe Tucker taking five for 35.

Scoreboard45

Having begun the day well, Gough ended with the upper hand, too, batting with all the good sense and resolution that watchers of Durham are coming to admire. He offered one chance, edging Hammond between first and second slip, but he remained on 65 not out at the close.

Paul Franks, the Nottinghamshire pace bowler, is to join the England A tour of Zimbabwe later this week (Thursay Petropoulos writes). Initially, no replacement was thought to be needed for Paul Hutchison, who flew home suffering from a bulging disc in his lower back, but subsequent injuries to Melvyn Betts and Steve Harmison have left the squad's bowling resources worryingly thin.

Michael Bevan, the Australia all-rounder, who was to begin a three-year contract with Sussex next season, will not now play in the county championship until 2000. He will be replaced by Michael Di Venuto, his compatriot.

India's ten-wicket hero garlanded with national acclaim

Kumble counts the price of fame

DOZENS of unopened telegrams lay strewn around the room and an ice bucket holding champagne sat on the television set next to a huge bouquet of flowers. Anil Kumble tried to sound sincere as he apologised for the state of his temporary home, but there was not a lot of sorrow in his voice.

In the hours immediately after he joined Jim Laker in taking ten wickets in a Test innings, Kumble said that the magnitude of the feat would not sink in until he saw the newspapers the next day. By the time those papers were delivered to the Taj Palace Hotel in Delhi he had shaken so many hands, accepted so many messages of congratulation, that the achievement could not have failed to register.

His figures of ten for 74, which helped India to a first Test win against Pakistan for 19 years, made front-page news in all parts of the country at a time when certain political parties are believed to be close to toppling the Vajpayee Government. "Words fail this headline," the banner of the Asian Age proclaimed in large capitals. "Pakistan Kumbled at the Kotla," the Indian Express opined, referring to the Ferozeshah Kotla ground where the leg-spin bowler had mown down Pakistan.

Yet it was a small, down-page story in *The Times of India* that offered a clue to the rewards that will accrue. J. H. Patel, the chief minister of

Kumbla's native state of Karnataka, has announced a reward of 100,000 rupees (about £1,500). In an economy in which a weekly wage of £10 equates with relative affluence, this represents an enormous sum.

Kumble, a graduate in mechanical engineering from the University of Bangalore, understands that fame carries a price. He has witnessed at first hand the restrictions imposed upon Sachin Tendulkar by the demands of fandom and he has no desire to be on that level of superstardom.

"I pity Sachin, but that is what you have to put up with in India," Kumble, 28, said. "Basically I am a quiet, down-to-earth man and I do not intend to change. I can still have my private life. Sachin will still be the biggest player in our cricket. I think the children will still like to bat like him rather than bowl like me."

"Having said that, I am sure what happened will make people change the way they look at me as a bowler. Maybe I will be seen as a special personality and I will enjoy that. From the moment I took the tenth wicket, everybody has made me feel really special. The people around me, the press and the media are making me aware of what has happened."

Everybody seems to want a part of him. When he lost the key to his room, a porter offered a replacement only after Kumble had signed an autograph. Despite the security men, a number of young girls managed to enter the lobby to wait for a sight of the country's most eligible bachelor.

In the lift, an American tourist offered a handshake while explaining to his baffled wife that she stood in the privileged company of the fellow who had taken ten wickets the previous afternoon. "Did you know," he asked, turning back to Kumble, "that you are only the second man to do that?" Somehow Kumble managed to convey the impression that he was hearing this for the first time.



Posters of Kumble are snapped up by student admirers in Bombay yesterday

Wearing glasses, a bright T-shirt, jeans and sandals, he looked remarkably fresh given the excitement of the night before. He arrived back at the hotel on Sunday to be garlanded with flowers and the ensuing celebrations, though quiet, did not finish until after one o'clock. He did manage to find time to speak to his mother, who had watched the game on television.

"Whenever we talk before games she tells me to go out and take a hat-trick," Kumble said. "But I think to take ten wickets in an innings is even better. It is a once-in-a-lifetime achievement. As we were leaving the field, Wasim Akram [his final victim] said that he always dreamt of taking all ten. So far he has not done it, but he said he was really happy for me."

Success in sport can be ephemeral. When the countries meet in Calcutta next Tuesday in the first game of the Asian Test championship, a triangular series involving Sri Lanka, Kumble is unlikely to find the pitch as helpful as the slow turner in Delhi. "Cricket is the sort of game where you cannot be complacent," he said. "I will be thinking about taking my first wicket, not the tenth."

Tired England troops launch a final assault

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SYDNEY

AS ENGLAND come towards the end of a long tour that has stretched nerve and sinew far beyond what anyone is prepared to give them credit for, there is one final prize to claim. They have lost the Ashes, the main business of the trip this winter, but if they can beat Australia in the final of the bloated triangular tournament, which begins in Sydney tomorrow, they may feel they have passed muster.

Alec Stewart, a willing captain, must be coming to the end of his tether, though if he is, he is not letting on. Say what you like about Stewart, he is a professional of his times and one to be admired — on the whole. Winter, summer, autumn, spring, day, night and even in the half-light, he is a cricketer, first and last. To him, this week is just another, one of many.

However, there is a problem and it must be addressed before England go into the World Cup. They have two special players — Gough and Hick — and Hick is only a special player when he is touched by Venus. Otherwise he is an ordinary Joe, who does not even bowl any more. Food for thought there, skipper.

England have done reasonably well in this competition, though the loss of four of their past five matches takes the edge off things. It does not help that Gough is struggling to overcome a thigh strain and is unlikely to play tomorrow.

He came through a training session at the Sydney Cricket Ground, but nobody has given a convincing reason why he played in the last of the preliminary games. Gough has bowled heart and soul for England this winter. The least he was owed was a couple of games off, and they denied him even that luxury.

Stewart claimed yesterday

that "the aim 18 months ago was to win the World Cup. The 15 players selected will be the best 15 in English conditions". Which means, reading between the lines, that these games are irrelevant.

England can afford to lose the lot and will have lost no ground, because these matches bear no relation at all to the competition that will take place in England in early summer.

Apart from Gough, who is the spearhead and the standard-bearer of this team, Neil Fairbrother is another injury doubt. Fairbrother, over the past month, has become indispensable to England's cause. Now that Graham Thorpe has been declared unfit for the World Cup, privately if not officially, the Lancashire left-hander has assumed an importance in the team that may surprise even himself. He has excelled in one-day cricket for a decade and a half but now, at 35, he finds himself more valuable than ever.

Stewart is on shakier ground when he declares that the present party includes people who have every chance of playing in the World Cup. Mark Alleyne, who, sadly, had to return to England on Sunday after the death of his father in Barbados, has no chance of featuring in it and, if Vince Wells plays, it can only be because others are indisposed.

"There will be some unlucky people when we name the team," Stewart said. Not really. He knows full well which of these players will be invited to the feast, and so does everybody else. England go into this mini-tournament as second favourites.

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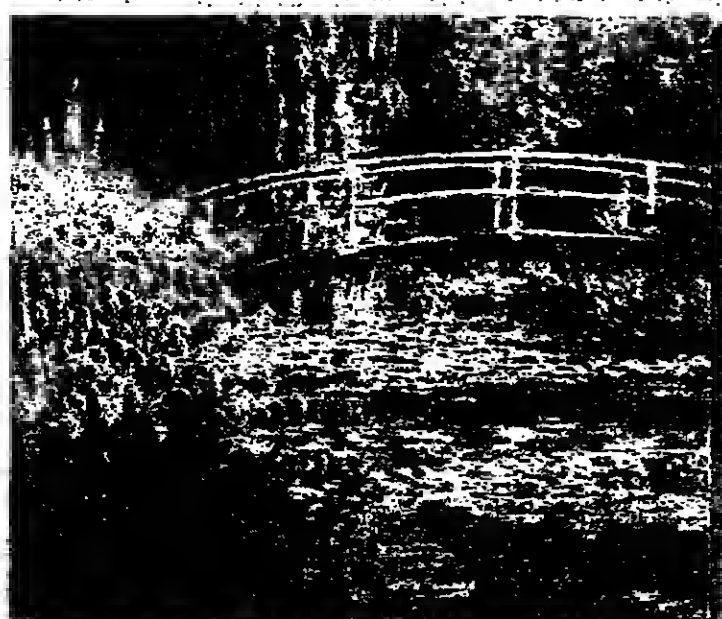
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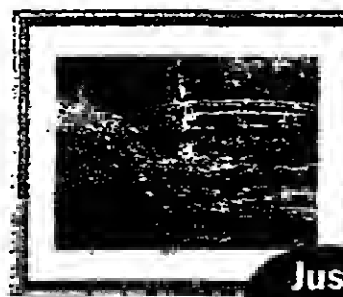
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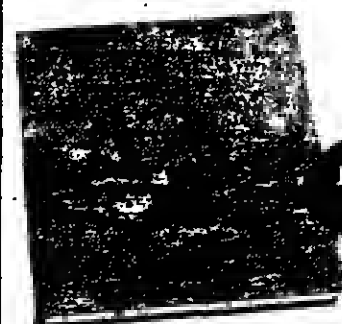
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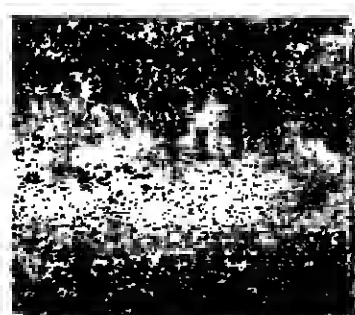
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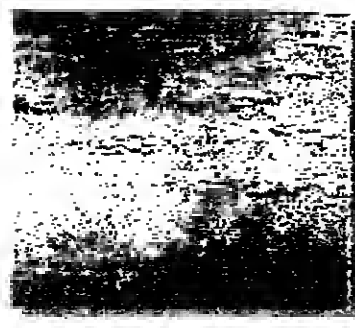
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CHANGING TIMES

Slow lane, no overtaking please

Kevin Eason talks to the president of Formula One's governing body, whose plans to make the sport safer by reducing speeds has angered drivers and enthusiasts

He asked a doctor and computer analysts, a designer and safety experts. But not Michael Schumacher. Damon Hill, or any of the other Formula One drivers lining up to accuse Max Mosley of imposing rules that threaten to ruin motor racing.

Mosley, the president of the FIA, Formula One's governing body, has forced through technical changes to grand-prix cars that are going to make overtaking near to impossible, if you believe the drivers.

Last season was the first year of narrower cars on thinner tyres with three grooves, reducing vital grip to make driving a Formula One car round corners like roller-skating on ice. This season, it will be even worse: a fourth groove has been introduced to harder compound tyres, reducing grip even further.

Schumacher gave warning that drivers are more likely to crash and Hill said that grand-prix racing will turn into a procession of cars that are unable to overtake each other for fear of going off into the gravel traps. Yet Mosley is unmoved. "There is a law in Formula One that the success of any measure is in inverse proportion to the degree of opposition it generates," he said.

"It is now very difficult to overtake. But is that a problem? Is not grand-prix racing more interesting today than it has ever been because it is difficult to overtake? Obviously, from a driver's point of view, it is infuriating. But from the public's point of view, once upon a time, when a car caught a car, it would just overtake. Now it cannot, so one of the results is that pit stops are of crucial importance, adding a new and exciting dimension. The build-up to that can go on for 30 minutes, so the tension and drama is terrific.

"In the old days of slipstreaming at Monza, there would be 100 overtaking manoeuvres a race and you could go off and have lunch and come back for the final lap, because nothing mattered until the final lap. I am not sure that is better."

Mosley, in fact, has a simple question to help to analyse the appeal of Formula One: are you in favour of football or basketball?

"In basketball, you see a game with 100 points or more, scoring every couple of minutes," he said. "In football, you have the tension of waiting for what might be the only goal of the game. That is the same as good grand-prix racing, the anticipation is agonising and when the moment of overtaking comes, it is so satisfying."

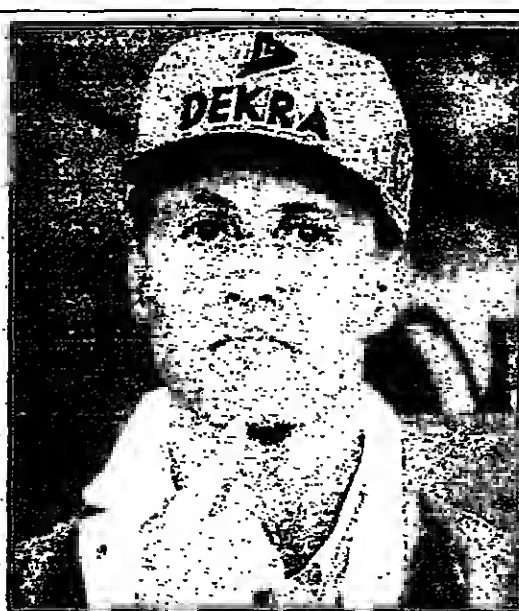
Mosley commissioned an internal report last year after it became clear that the new regulations, designed to slow down the cars and therefore make the sport safer, were not doing their job. Not only was overtaking an activity threatened with extinction, but the team engineers found their way through the red tape so that lap times were almost as fast as ever by mid-season.

The inquiry, led by Professor Sid Watkins, the FIA's chief medical adviser, and including computer experts and Harvey Postlethwaite, the chief designer at Tyrrell, was briefed to discover how to slow down Formula One yet retain the excitement of the sport by making overtaking possible. The computer specialists studied black-box acci-



Damon Hill, 1996 world champion

"The new regulations have opened great potential for a train of cars going round and round, totally unable to overtake. When you get into a bunch of cars, you feel the problem increase, handicapping the drivers and our ability to race. Everybody wants to make grand-prix racing as safe as possible but also as exciting. We have gone down a cul-de-sac."



Michael Schumacher, twice world champion

"The new tyres do nothing to help overtaking of the best drivers to show their talent. The level of effort you have to put into a Formula One car increases with the speed you go. Because the level of the grip from the tyres is lower, it is easier for drivers to find the limit. Once you have found it, there is nothing you can do to go faster. We will be spinning more."



Alessandro Zanardi, twice US Champ car champion who has joined Williams

"I don't think the cars will be much safer. The cars wander about on the track. We will not be able to race like Nigel Mansell and Ayrton Senna did at Barcelona in 1991, when they went down the straight side-by-side. You will bang wheels. The cars are more dependent on aerodynamics and less on mechanical grip and that will harm overtaking."



David Coulthard, McLaren No2 driver

"I don't know why we have the extra groove. I'm sure we will end up going the same speeds as last year, but last year wasn't just enough. We get used to these speeds and it doesn't feel special. Formula One's the top of racing but it's just not fast enough to make you feel like you are doing something special."



Eddie Irvine, Ferrari No2 driver

"It is totally the wrong way to go - it's the easiest way, but it is the wrong way because it makes overtaking more difficult. By the time you get to a corner, one small mistake will become a much bigger mistake because the grip goes away so much quicker. We will just end up going slower and overtake much less so it will not be so interesting for us or for people watching."



Falling on deaf ears: If Max Mosley ignores the drivers' protests, racing manoeuvres such as that between Nigel Mansell and Ayrton Senna at Barcelona in 1991 could become a thing of the past.



Jacques Villeneuve, 1997 world champion

"I don't know why we have the extra groove. I'm sure we will end up going the same speeds as last year, but last year wasn't just enough. We get used to these speeds and it doesn't feel special. Formula One's the top of racing but it's just not fast enough to make you feel like you are doing something special."



dent recorders from the cars, spending weeks in a world dominated by technology that would not look out of place in a space laboratory.

Forming technical specifications to fulfil both demands resulted in a complex formula: increase tyre grip by 50 per cent and drag by 10 per cent, but reduce aerodynamic downforce by 10 per cent. In other words, put fat, slick tyres back on cars and reduce their slipperiness through the air so that drivers

could "slipstream" into corners to overtake a competitor, even in a machine with the same horsepower.

Doing that would create cars almost the opposite of the skinny, aircraft on wheels that will be taking to the track this season.

Not that the committee's findings matter, because Mosley has decided to ignore the advice of Professor Watkins and his team. He is determined to use tyres as his primary

weapon to slow down cars that he believed were becoming dangerously fast, an opinion that was reinforced tragically in 1994 with the deaths of Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger.

"We were in the red line area," he said. "There was a cluster of accidents which came for several different and unconnected reasons. But the one thing that related them was that speeds were too high. Ratzenberger died absolutely because he

was going at a speed too high to survive. "If a car has enormous downforce and a 10,000-horsepower engine and is on bicycle tyres, then it can't go fast, it just isn't possible, and that is why we know we have to concentrate on this area if we are going to slow down Formula One cars and ensure the sport is safe."

Mosley is an unlikely sportsman. He trained as a lawyer and has the straight-backed bearing of a minor

aristocrat, but he was also a racing driver and co-founder of his own Formula One team, March, before being elevated to his present job. So he understands more than most the wiles and intelligence of designers capable of finding a route around almost any rules.

He remains an enthusiast and is the last man to try to kill off a sport that is second only to the Olympic Games and football as a television spectacle. Apart from the criticism

of drivers and teams, he gets his fair share of hate mail from the devotees who accuse him of diluting the purity of Formula One with refuelling stops and, now, the new regulations.

Mosley is sanguine about the onslaught. "Formula One is not for enthusiasts, it is for the 300 million people who watch it on the telly and if they stop watching, all the enthusiasts in the world will not save it from extinction," he said.

The champion's assessment of his own chances was characteristically modest, though he looks more relaxed and confident than at any time since he joined Formula One eight seasons ago. "Winning the championship lifted a huge weight from my shoulders," he said, "and I just want to win it a second time so badly."

"But I am not going to think it is easy this year or a piece of cake. There are other top drivers who want to win too, so it will be difficult and I will have to work as hard as ever."

World spies something beginning with M

FROM KEVIN EASON IN BARCELONA

DAVID COULTHARD preferred not to look for omens in the first undistinguished moments of his relationship with his new McLaren yesterday.

After jumping into the car that he wants to take him to a world championship for the first time, the Scot did not complete his first lap before the car broke down. It had to be towed back to the pits at the Circuit de Catalunya, near here, in front of a jostling band of photographers anxious to make the most of what might be their only chance this season to get close to the MP4-14.

If McLaren-Mercedes repeat their feat of last year, they will have the most technologically advanced car in Formula One this season, in spite of the minor glitch yesterday. But Ron Dennis, McLaren's team principal, knows that the technological lead lasts only until prying eyes have the chance to study the shape of his new car. He has decided to thwart all attempts at copying the winning formula. In spite of criticism that his team seems to be suf-

fering from an unhealthy dose of paranoia.

Dennis was upset: last year by a photographer who stole into the McLaren garage to snap a portfolio of pictures to give to a rival team, and he will not allow that to happen again. Once Coulthard and his team-mate, Mika Hakkinen, the world champion, pulled back the curtain on the challenger this year - it was quickly wheeled away to the security of a garage where the shutters were pulled down, as they will be all season. The early and ignominious arrival in the pits saw mechanics scurrying to cover the car, with Coulthard still sitting in it, in a huge, black sheet.

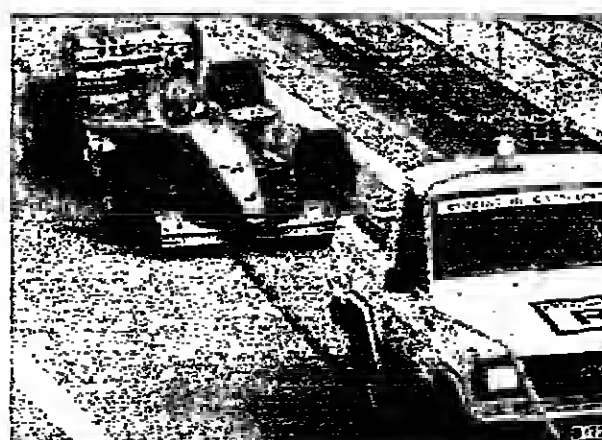
Dennis has ordered extra security at test sessions and races while the car's aerodynamic secrets will be visible only in a high-speed blur on the track. "Photographers will try to take pictures of our new car and we will try to stop them," he said. "They are the eyes of the other teams - there is no question about that. There are those

looking for more than just a casual photograph. They are deliberate and intentional."

"Coming up with new ideas and developing them is 90 per cent of the job. If other teams see something, they can accelerate months of development."

Dennis is confident that the

McLaren this year represents a more radical step forward than the car of last year, which lapped the entire field in the first race of the season. Traditionally, a new car comprises around 15 per cent of components carried over from the previous year; this time, the



Quick click: the new McLaren being towed back to the pits gives photographers a rare chance for a close-up

percentage of common parts in the MP4-14 and championship-winning car of last year is measured in single figures, and the public shakedown yesterday was to discover faults before serious testing starts next week.

Coulthard believes the car will give him a head start. He said after his first outing in it yesterday: "The engineers have told me that this car is a significant step forward."

"We have matured as a team over the past year, particularly with Mika as champion, and that makes us more confident. We are a tight unit and it is going to take a lot to beat us. We have got something the other teams can only dream of. I just cannot wait to get started in Australia."

Coulthard's level of enthusiasm yesterday was higher than at any time since the middle of last season, when his championship challenge crumbled in a welter of mechanical breakdowns and lost confidence. Sitting alongside the champion only rubbed salt

SNOW REPORTS									
Station	Depth cm	Temp C	Conditions	Run to Piste	Off-piste	Weather (5pm)	C	Last snow	
Andorra	86	90	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	4	07/02	
Soldeu									
Austria									
Kitzbühel	90	187	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	08/02	
St Anton	50	255	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-8	08/02	
St Anton	120	480	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-13	08/02	
Canada									
Lake Louise	135	180	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-4	08/02	
France									
Alpe d'Huez	145	210	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-12	07/02	
Arvieux	190	210	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-6	08/02	
Palaise	210	370	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-12	08/02	
La Plagne	185	280	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-10	07/02	
Les Arves	142	230	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-8	07/02	
Megeve	90	195	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-5	07/02	
Meribel	120	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-8	08/02	
Thonex	122	230	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	07/02	
Val Thorens	140	200	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-16	08/02	
Val d'Isere	110	275	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-13	08/02	
Italy									
Cortina	50	185	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-10	08/02	
Corvara	30	70	Hard	Open	Heavy	Cloud	-7	05/02	
San Candido	70	123	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-10	08/02	
Switzerland									
Crans Montana	100	280	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-8	08/02	
Davos	145	225	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-10	08/02	
Garmisch	80	215	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-10	08/02	
Kitzbühel	120	225	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-11	08/02	
St Anton	48	122	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-7	05/02	
Verbier	100	155	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-7	08/02	
Wengen	90	220	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	08/02	
Zermatt	60	130	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-6	08/02	
United States									
Aspen	105	120	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	5	06/02	
Deer Valley	230	207	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	2	08/02	

L = lower slopes U = upper slopes

Calderwood
go as Gra
starts clean

boosts FA's
World Cup bid

LEAGUE

Top clubs
given
their way

POOL

TENNIS: WINNING RETURN FOR BRITISH NO 2 AFTER AUSTRALIAN DISAPPOINTMENT

Rusedski benefits from extra training

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DUBAI

GREG RUSEDSKI notched up only his second victory of the year last night and earned himself 25 ranking points into the bargain. That leaves 815 to go between now and the middle of March if he is to maintain his place among the world's top ten. That would be no easy task for any player, but the sort of year that Rusedski has been having promises a particularly gruelling uphill struggle.

Still, if Rusedski's passage into the second round of the Dubai Open could hardly be

Certainly Rusedski looked in fine fettle. Despite wearing a less-than-fertile back-brace that resembles a roll-on of the 1950s, he moved well around the court as he showed off the benefits of a punishing training schedule. Since his return from Melbourne he has spent more than five hours a day working on his fitness and movement and he plans more of the same. The brace, he claimed, was no more than a comfort, protecting the site of an old injury. If only protecting his ranking could be as simple.

More than half the points he has to defend were won in tournaments in Split and Antwerp that have been dropped from the calendar, leaving him to hunt in new territory to make up the shortfall. Not that he is looking for easy pickings at small events.

"I want to test myself against the top players," he said. "That's the only way I'm going to prove myself and give myself the confidence to win a grand slam." Next on the list here is either Francisco Clavet or Wayne Ferreira.

Petr Korda is also a changed man from the fraught figure who began the season by losing in Doha. Then, he was unsure how long he could battle against the tide of headlines, rumours and court cases and still keep playing tennis. After his first round victory over Alberto Martin, a lucky loser from Spain, he was still talking about the end of his career, but this time it was on his terms, not those of the International Tennis Federation.

Martin has the walk of a man who has spent too long in the saddle. This may be on account of his thighs, which, for



Korda, making a backhand return against Martin, is to spend more time with his family

a chap of only 5ft 9in, are of staggering proportions, ensuring that there is little chance of his knees ever touching. There was scant chance of his racket touching Korda's forehead either as the Czech went through 6-3, 6-4. "I need to play as many matches as I can," Korda said. "Last year I had a long run of losing matches and I have to get back my confidence and my match fitness."

Back in a far more positive frame of mind, the only thing

he can see stopping him now is his family. In September, his daughter will enrol in school in Prague and Korda wants to be there to see it. When he should be playing in the US Open. "For years my tennis has come first, now it is my turn to make the sacrifice," he said.

"Obviously it has changed me a bit," Korda said of the scandal after he failed a drugs test at Wimbledon last year. "I won't say it changed me as a good boy or a bad boy. I can't

say exactly how, but I will always have my friends and family."

He played down the significance of the Czech Tennis Federation's decision to ban him from the Czech championships and the Davis Cup team. "I was not invited to the meeting which decided this and I was not informed," he said. "I understand I am banned, but I have not played in the championships since 1987 and have not played Davis Cup since 1997."

SNOOKER

Dip in form puts Hendry at bottom of the table

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY uttered one word at his post-match press conference after losing to Tony Drago in the quarter-finals of the Irish Open in December. After again falling victim to Drago in the second round of the Benson and Hedges Masters yesterday, Hendry managed six words, but if anything, his mood was even blacker.

After a 6-4 defeat in a tournament that he has won six times since 1989, Hendry was asked if his latest setback was depressing. "I'm getting used to it," he said, but the Scot is clearly finding it difficult to come to terms with his present ineffectiveness.

Hendry, who between 1989 and 1994 prevailed in 23 consecutive matches at the Masters, had not previously failed to negotiate his opening engagement.

In contrast, Drago, who trailed Hendry 12-0 in career meetings before eliminating him from the German Masters and Irish Open this sea-

son, had lost on all four of his appearances at Wembley.

Shaky from the outset, Hendry trailed 3-0 but, when he won four of the next five frames to draw level at 4-4, Drago appeared destined to collapse, as he has done so often on important occasions.

Instead, the Maltese, unpredictable and naturally talented in equal measure, accounted for what proved to be the closing two frames in only 12 minutes, with breaks of 121 and 116. Drago, who had also constructed a 113 clearance in the second frame, plays John Parrott or Anthony Hamilton in the quarter-finals.

"Considering where I was and who I was playing, this has to be my greatest performance," Drago, a professional since 1985, said. "I've played all over the world but this is the only venue that makes me feel nervous a week before the tournament starts."

"Stephen obviously isn't playing all that well but this says a lot about my character. I don't care if he's wearing a blindfold. To beat him three times on the trot and to beat him at the Masters is an achievement."

Hendry has not won a title on British soil since the International Open of February 1997. The problem is simple enough to diagnose: a chronic shortage of confidence.

Hendry: ineffective

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **OLYMPICS:** Eight members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will be named for receiving hospitality "beyond necessary levels" when Nagano's report is published into how the city secured the 1998 Winter Games, a Japanese official said yesterday (John Goodbody writes).

Yoshio Yagi, the Japanese Olympic Committee's secretary general, said that three of the eight were likely to be the focus of IOC attention but declined to name either the individuals or their nationalities. The report is due to be sent to the IOC headquarters in Lausanne by Monday.

■ **BOXING:** Herbie Hide has withdrawn from his defence of the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title against Orlin Norris, of the United States, in Newcastle on Saturday. Hide is suffering from a skin allergy. It is the second time the fight has fallen through, with Norris pulling out of scheduled bouts last year because of knee injuries.

■ **BADMINTON:** Darren Hall extended his record to ten men's singles titles at the Liverpool Victoria national championships at Haywards Heath in Sussex, beating Colin Haughton, the England No 2 from Manchester, 6-15, 15-7, 15-5 in a repeat of last year's final. Julia Mann, the England No 1, beat Tracy Hallam 11-2, 11-2 to secure her third women's title in succession.

■ **CYCLING:** Festina and TVM, who were entangled in the 1998 Tour de France doping scandal, are eligible for the race this year, organisers said yesterday.

■ **FOOTBALL:** Dulwich College, the holders, shared the trophy with Tonbridge in the Independent Schools Lent terms six-side competition on Sunday. The final finished 1-1 after extra-time.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

PACU

(b) A large, vegetarian, freshwater fish from northern parts of South America.

REINE CLAUDE

(a) The eponym of a type of greengage. Perhaps from the name of Claude (1499-1524), daughter of Louis XII.

OBI

(c) In Nigeria, a native herb. "Where do you sleep with your wife, in your obi or in her own hut?" asked the medicine-man.

RYO

(c) A former Japanese monetary unit. "I will kill anyone or accept a mission of the sword for five hundred ryo."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Qxh5! Bxh5 ... 2 Rxf7-Kg8 ... 3 Nh6 checkmate

The original X files

Station X
Channel 4, 9.00pm

What a satisfying series this has been, including Howard Davidson's accompanying music which, unobtrusively, can make the hair on the back of the neck stand on end. This last of four documentaries about the life of Bletchley Park in winning the Second World War — its code-breakers having already cracked the Enigma variations in the German Air Force and Navy — shows how the world's first computer, known for obvious reasons as Colossus, was able, by 1944, to foretell the position of all Germany's 62 divisions. That led to D-Day and the beginning of the end. It is arguable that Station X shortened the war by two years and saved millions of lives. Yet until this series very little indeed was known about the place.

Great Railway Journeys
BBC2, 9.25pm

The final journey in this delightful series is a little different in that the traveller is not British, not a journalist, television celebrity or politician, and not white. Enter the Hollywood actor Danny Glover, whose chosen beat is the oldest railway in Africa — through Senegal into Mali's Dogon country on the Bamako Express. Glover, recently appointed the first Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations Development Programme, begins with a visit to the notorious House of Slaves on Goree Island where he imagines his ancestors may have awaited their own bitter journey to America. But the mood picks up with a side trip to Youssou N'Dour's recording studio in Dakar to sample the latest West African music.

Vicious Circle
BBC1, 10pm (Scotland 10.30pm)

Movie buffs may feel they have been here before. — a recent film about "The General" won awards and must be fresh in the memory. The General in this Northern Ireland production, written by Kieran Prendiville, is still the same real character: Martin Cahill, the one-time Mr Big of the Dublin underworld. This is a hard-core, murky tale, not without humour, of how Cahill (Ken Stott, cast against the grain) outwitted not only the Irish Garda and their undercover police, but the IRA



Ken Stott as the Irish criminal Martin Cahill in Vicious Circle (BBC1, times vary)

who seem to have resented the success of his (non-political) operations. Stott wears the familiar trademark of an anorak to blot out half his face and, again like Cahill, is kind to children and his own people, but also demonstrably and irrationally cruel. The high point of this complicated thriller is the General's brilliantly illustrated heist of famous paintings from the Bell Collection at Russborough House, Co Wicklow.

Children of the Sewers
ITV, times vary

Desmond Wilcott's first film on the street children of Bogotá in Colombia — *The Lost Children* — was shown on the BBC in 1991 and prompted an impressive response and the founding of a charity, Children of the Andes. Linchpin of the film was Jaime Jaramillo, a wealthy businessman who had set up safe housing for children who had taken refuge in the sewers. For his pains he received death threats and some of his orphans were actually shot at. In this new film the head of Colombian Child Welfare admits that there are still some 30,000 kids on the streets and in sewers. "There's more drug abuse, more sexual exploitation..." But this update reports on considerable success among the Jaramillo charges as they enter adulthood and we do hear that, on balance, eight years on, some things have changed for the better. But sadly, not enough... Elizabeth Crowley

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: On the Rob
Radio 4, 2.15pm

"I have reason to believe that you have several items in your bag which have not been paid for." Those are the chilling words of a store detective in this drama-documentary by Rachel Benham and the detective's cold formality helps to give this 45 minutes a sense of authenticity that is not diminished by the fact that the case histories have been fictionalised. Anna Massey plays Gillian, one of the shoplifters, a young woman who has been caught with a rich fantasy life that is portrayed in neat counterpoint to the humdrum realities of stealing. Motivation: Excitement, rebellion, need. One shoplifter says: "It was a dark period and I got a tremendous kick out of it, laced with a bit of unease... which I looked over. I pushed that one away."

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Radio 1 Breakfast 6.30 Steve Lamacz The Evening Session, Season tracks from Sabado and Skole 10.00 Digital Update 10.10 John Peel John Woodhouse in session 12.00am The Breakfast 2.00 Chris Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Leslie 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Richard Allen 12.00pm Jimmy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Alan Freeman: The Greatest Hits 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 A Brief History: Honor Blackman looks at the various styles of knickers through the ages 10.00 Susan Jefferys Says Make It A Double (5/6) 10.30 Nicky Horse 12.00am Katrina Leschichin 3.00 Mo Duts

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News with Anna Webster 1.00 Russia and Co 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match, England v France. Coverage of tonight's under-21 international 10.00 Late Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm My Favourite Year 1.00 Anna Reabum 3.00 Peter Dinkley 5.00 The Scott Zone 7.00 Eubank's People 8.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins and the Classics of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Mark Forster 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 5.45 Peter and Geoff 10.00 James Moll 1.00am Steve Power 4.30 Richard Allen

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny Mozart (An Overture) Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1)
9.00 On Air with Petroc Trelawny Mozart (An Overture) Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Leonard Slatkin
11.00 On Air with Petroc Trelawny Mozart (An Overture) Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1)
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Telemann
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Barbican
2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Symphony Orchestra under Mark Elder and conductor, BBC
Symphony Orchestra, Prokofiev (Dances)
Symphony (Symphony No 2, To October)
Prokofiev (Cantata for the Twentieth Anniversary of the October Revolution)
4.00 Voices with Ian Burnside in
4.45 Music Machine with Veneri Sharp
5.45 The Sound of Music, a song by Philip Pickett and Edward de Souza
7.45 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Live from the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London ASMF under Iona Brown, violin, Barak Ophir, cello, and Edward de Souza
11.00 Nature Soundscapes: A garden's ecology (1)
11.30 Choral Affair Terry's new-found love provides a sense of conscience
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News 12.04 LW and Yours Topical consumer news and information
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 My Mistress Music Madame de Pompadour gained entry to the Court of Versailles by virtue of her singing talent. Lucie Schoenberg, Michael Burdett and David Pountney unravel the story (2/5)
2.00 The Archers (1)
2.15 Afternoon Play: On the Rob Rachel Benham's drama-documentary about a store detective who catches shoplifters, starring Anna Massey and John Teller See Choice
3.00 The Exchange 0800 010 0444 Eddie Mar announces Premier's opinion of a topical issue
3.30 Going, Going, Gone Farmers in Aberdeenshire hope for a good price for their cattle at the Inverness livestock auction (2/5) (1)
3.45 The Book of the Week Anna Massey narrates part 27 of the history of Britain
4.00 The Learning Curve The Times columnist Luby Purves presents the education guide

RADIO 4

4.30 Shop Talk Business matters, presented by Heather Peyton
5.00 PM with Anne English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Choice Shop Presents: The Butter Factor Comedy sketches
7.00 The Archers William has a day to remember and considers this year's Oscar nominations
7.45 Speaking for Themselves: The Personal Letters of Winston and Catherine Churchill Starring Alex Jennings Broadcast earlier as part of Women's Hour (1)
8.00 File on 4 Julian O'Halloran reveals the disturbing facts behind the vexatious business. See Choice
8.40 In Touch Peter White with news for visually impaired people
9.00 Behind the Brain Geoff Watts investigates the race to solve the greatest mystery in the science of the mind — human consciousness (2/4)
9.30 No Trumph, No Tragedy (1)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Welby
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Mark Twain Stories Kelsey the Great Bear Contract (1)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Angus Deayton's History of Alternative Comedy Review of the alternative comedy scene, featuring interviews and performances by Tracey Ullman, Ben Elton and French and Saunders (2/4)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Weekly guide to films and film-going, with Brian Sibley
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Lemony's Tale Aglio Andriotti reads part three of Ken Saro-Wiwa's tale set in a Nigerian prison
12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.5. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 12.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 683, 908. WORLD SERVICE, MW 646, LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1059. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamee.

NatWest Personal Credit Interest Rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 9 February 1999:

Current Accounts				
Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
For credit	For credit	For credit	For credit	For credit
3.75	3.04	Advantage Premier	2.50	2.53
2.50	2.53	\$25,000 -	2.00	2.02
2.00	2.02	\$10,000 - \$24,999	1.50	1.51
0.75	0.75	\$1 - \$9,999	0.75	0.75

Savings				
Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
For credit	For credit	For credit	For credit	For credit
6.00	6.14	TESSA Reserve	5.50	5.61
5.60	5.72	Crown Reserve	5.10	5.20
5.10	5.20	\$100,000 - interest paid quarterly	4.50	4.59
4.60	4.70	\$50,000 - \$99,999	4.00	4.08
4.10	4.20	\$25,000 - \$49,999	3.50	3.58
3.60	3.70	\$10,000 - \$24,999	3.00	3.08
3.10	3.20	\$1 - \$9,999	2.50	2.58

Reward Reserve				
Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
For credit	For credit	For credit	For credit	For credit
3.20	3.24	\$10,000 +	2.70	2.73
2.95	2.98	\$2,000 - \$9,999	2.45	2.47
5.45	5.50	\$10,000 +	4.95	4.99
5.20	5.24	\$2,000 - \$9,999	4.70	4.73
3.80	3.85	Premium Reserve	3.30	3.34
3.75	3.78	\$50,000 - interest paid quarterly	3.20	3.24
3.45	3.49	\$25,000 - \$49,999	2.95	2.98
3.10	3.14	\$10,000 - \$24,999	2.60	2.63
2.60	2.63	\$1,000 +	2.10	2.12
2.35	2.37	\$500 - \$999	1.85	1.88
1.25	1.26	\$250 - \$499	1.00	1.00
1.10	1.10	\$100 - \$249	0.85	0.85
1.00	1.00	\$1 - \$99	0.75	0.75

The rates for all current personal savings accounts remain unchanged. Where deposits are made into a NatWest account, the interest rate will be the rate for that account. The rates for all current personal savings accounts remain unchanged. Where deposits are made into a NatWest account, the interest rate will be the rate for that account. The rates for all current personal savings accounts remain unchanged. Where deposits are made into a NatWest account, the interest rate will be the rate for that account.

NatWest

NatWest Personal Bank Plc, 41 Lombury, London EC2P 2BP

Mummy's boys and girls should be grateful

Nobody — some man once said — can misinterpret a boy like his own mother. Though he was probably more motherly than himself, a view very likely biased. It was a view only partially borne out by Anne Parillo's film *Mummy's Boy* for Channel 4's *Cutting Edge*, an impressionistic portrait of three sons, all of whom all still lived at home with their mothers even though they worked and earned their salaries.

This is a situation many of us might find peculiar, but only because we are not Italian. In Italy men are still living with their mothers when they're 50; the men, that is, not the mothers.

Mummy's Boy was to have been the companion piece to *Daddy's Girl*, the documentary pulled from the schedules last year after Channel 4 learnt it had been hoaxed. A possessively close father-daughter

relationship had, in fact, been cooked up for the cameras.

You feel a similar trick can't have been played on the makers of *Mummy's Boy* — but mostly because all three couples featured seem so unexceptional, even if one of the mothers did glory in the attention of the cameras. This was Ranna, who, unfeelingly, told us that she'd like Simeon, her 20-year-old son, to move out because, well, he's dull and he's uninspiring company.

Actually Ranna gets on Simeon's nerves as much as he gets on hers, which is a love of sorts. Her habit of vacuum-cleaning the house at 2am, which Ranna describes as "a compulsion... some people have to have their nightcap, I have to Hoover".

Her libido is to blame. "The Hoover bit started when I was married. I'd gone off sex with my husband, and the only excuse I could think of for not getting into bed

with him was that I had to Hoover. "Oddly, there were no fathers in any of the three households featured: nor were there any truly well-to-do mummy's boys.

Others, for all their faults, at least have the bonus of being women. After watching *Snapshot Helen Mirren* (BBC), in which the actress criss-crossed South Africa on behalf of Oxfam meeting some of the thousands of women and children whose lives have been blighted by men's barbarity, you wonder if the world wouldn't be a better place if there were fewer men around. There are 30 murders a day in South Africa: thousands of rapes, muggings and carjackings every week.

With 13 million firearms in the country, many children watch shootings as regularly as your children watch cartoons. Some 300 police officers are shot dead every

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

year: combine this with their low wages, and it might explain why police don't rush in like fools into ganglands where even angels would fear to tread.

The bleakness of this tender and moving film detonated like a landmine when a smart, smiling schoolgirl — her name was Lydia — volunteered a story which she hadn't even told her classmates. It was the story of

how, one night, the family car found itself driving past a gunfight between two men. Her father stamped hard on the accelerator. But once they were clear of the violence Lydia realised that her mother had been shot in the crossfire.

By the time they got to a hospital, her mother was dead, and Lydia was no longer a mummy's girl. Nor, soon after, even a daddy's girl. Unable to shoulder the burden — of what, grief? fatherhood? — her father subsequently abandoned Lydia and her two brothers.

But the film was honest enough to show smiling faces: too faces of people who are persuading themselves that their luck will change, otherwise why bother going on? Just as Dr Johnson thought the most surprising thing about a woman's preaching was not that it wasn't done well, but that it was done at all, so the surprising thing about the process of peace and rec-

onciliation in South Africa is not that it isn't going smoothly, but that — given the daunting odds stacked against it — that there's still any process there at all.

For those who feared she'd be a luvvie on the loose, Mirren turned out to be a discreet, thoughtful and compassionate guide. Leaving Lydia's schoolroom, she confessed: "The last thing I said to her was, Lydia, I promise myself that I'll be better for you. I promise you. That was all I could say. I don't know whether what I said was true or not."

You'd call what many South Africans lead "a dog's life" if it weren't that most abandoned dogs get better treatment than this. In *Animal Police* (BBC), a new docuserp following a bunch of trainees hoping to make the grade as RSPCA officers, there was even a whole afternoon devoted just to the etiquette of in-

serting a thermometer up a calf's backside. "What you must never do," said the farmer showing the nervous rookies his little thermometer, "is let go of this because if the calf coughs, it shoots out and if it takes a sharp intake of breath, it's going up in there!"

Tony Hart, 25, from Nottingham, was first up. He inserted the thermometer into the calf's rear as if threading a needle, gripping it firmly lest it get sucked in like a matchstick up a Hoover nozzle. Later Tony was practising his public speaking in front of his fellow trainees, because officers are expected to talk about the RSPCA's work in schools and institutions. "My name is Inspector Hart," Tony began, "and I'm from the RSPCA. An inspector's job is very varied, but what do you think one of the most important things is?"

If any schoolboy guesses that it's "holding on tight to the thermometer", I'll eat my hat.

6.00am Business Breakfast (37847)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (140248)

9.00 Killy (1101037)

9.45 The Vanessa Show (14528248)

10.55 News: Weather (1681172)

11.00 Real Roads (608488)

11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (16878248)

11.55 News: Weather (11851335)

12.00pm Call My Bluff (44915)

12.30 Wipeout (310557)

12.55 The Weather Show (148324199)

1.00 One O'Clock News (143335)

1.30 Regional News: Weather (47046287)

1.40 Neighbours: Joel pushes his luck with Sally (12892422)

2.05 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges

2.55 Body Spies: Heat (5328373)

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (4210002)

3.45 The Enchanted Lands: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair (2133286)

3.55 Hubbub (3273977)

4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (3451712)

4.35 The Really Wild Show (5011267)

5.00 Newsround (2551335)

5.10 Grange Hill (510377)

5.33 Rewind (155539)

5.35 Neighbours (1477644)

6.00 Six O'Clock News: Weather (1422)

6.30 Regional News: Weather (642)

7.00 Holiday: Jill Dando checks out Rothman in Cretaceous: Michael McNally heads for the Maldives; Sandra Gula goes skiing in Switzerland (11809)

7.30 EastEnders: Mary discovers a shocking secret (1286)

8.00 Holly City: An emergency forces Victoria to think on her feet to bring a patient back from the brink (1734644)

8.50 8.50 to Paddington: Green Having successfully auditioned for the West End musical *Amn*, 12-year-old Dominique Moore eagerly awaits news of who will play the lead role (1161267)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (17828)

9.30 Workers at War: New series. Salespeople trading in anything from computers to sexy knickers describe how they strive to achieve a specified level of attainment at work (114) (159335)

10.00 [CHOICE] Vicious Circle: Dramatisation based on actual events, starring Martin Shaw, *The General* (1001002)

11.45 Death Dreams (TVN 1991) A couple experience a series of supernatural events following their daughter's accidental drowning. Eerie thriller, starring Christopher Reeve. Directed by Martin Donovan (1631064)

1.55m Weather (5581381)

1.20 BBC News 24 (56485132)

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show

The Little Polar Bear (3377422) 7.05

7.10 The Blue Peter (3074731) 7.15 Blue Peter (3074731)

8.20 Taz-Mania (1768712) 8.40 Poika

8.50 The Little Polar Bear (3141644) 9.00 German

Globo (6226083) 9.05 Hello aus Berlin (622354)

9.10 Working It Out (7735511)

9.25 Techno (4955889) 9.45 Number

time (1052557) 10.00 Teletubbies

(20996) 10.30 Watch (2042151) 10.45

Teaching Today (589793) 11.15 Mega-

maths (587842) 11.35 Words and

Pictures (6751002) 11.50 History

Express (673815) 12.10pm Express

(709889) 12.30 Working Lunch (60441)

1.00 Oakie Doke (94307489)

1.10 The Travel Hour (1054151)

2.10 Wildlife on Two (116100460)

2.40 News: Weather (13478538)

2.45 Westminster (12919880)

3.25 News: Weather (15800278)

3.30 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges

3.55 Hubbub (3273977) 4.10

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5.30am ITN Morning News (40809)

6.00 GMTV (953314)

9.25 Triha (1587159)

10.30 This Morning (11684806)

12.15pm ITN News (17253335)

12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (164267)

1.00 Shortland Street (61731)

1.30 Home and Away: Robert is on the loose (163538)

2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (15905538)

2.45 Supermarket Sweep (1639054)

3.15 ITN News Headlines (1106660)

3.20 ITN News (14355183)

3.25 CITY: Mopelot's Shop (1000016) 3.35

Rosie and Jim (2288809) 3.50 The

Wombles (2125267) 4.00 Rupert

(624199) 4.25 Mike and Angelo

(3441355) 4.50 How 2 (735248)

5.10 A Country Practice (9343267)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (1180955)

5.55 ITN Crime Report (305052)

6.00 Home and Away (11330002)

6.25 WALKS: Wales Tonight (1287480)

6.55 WEST: HTV Weather (68928)

7.00 WEST: The West Tonight (1170)

7.05 Emmetdale: The vet's practice is thrown into turmoil (16977)

7.30 WEST: West Eye View: Richard Lyddon reports on the state of overcrowded Bristol Prison (354)

7.45 WALKS: Flashback: Wild Tracks: The

Valley of Cwyd (1354)

8.00 The Bill: Garfield has to solve the mystery of a disappeared corpse washed from the River Thames (130522)

9.00 Peak Practice: Part of a two-part episode. As David agonises over whether to leave Clare for Patricia, a terrible accident threatens to tear everyone's lives apart (613) (1710)

10.00 News at Ten: Weather (130712)

10.30 HTV News and Weather (1485373)

As HTV West except 12.20pm-12.30 Central

News: Weather (1655267) 1.00 Headlines

(616) (16131) 1.30 The Jerry Springer

Show (11756828) 2.15-2.45 Home and

Away (1180793) 3.20-3.25 Central News (14355183)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (61731)

5.40-6.00 Central News: Weather (14355183)

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